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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLE

DECEMBER 23, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 15

IN *Sunday* LIFESTYLE

- Sharon Cuneta and other celebrities talk about what they like best about Christmas / C1
- A Christmas twice blessed for Aga and Charlene / C2

Offbeat stories of the year

AKO TALAGA SI RICHARD!!!

DO ordinary people ever get into the news?

Of course they do, and more often than not it's when some quirk or surprising incident in their personal lives is concerned.

For example, even before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, United

OFFBEAT/ A16

Congress OKs more pork

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

WAR GOES ON

No holiday break for these Scout Rangers who scour the jungles of Basilan on a mission to rescue an American missionary couple and a Filipina nurse being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.

Debt service gets bulk of 2002 budget

By Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

IN THE end, all it took was a generous helping of pork and holiday-conscious legislators in an expansive, gift-giving mood to approve the 2002 national budget.

After all the posturing, the threats to cut the budget by P30 billion in the Senate or to run to the Supreme Court to protest its second reading in the House, both chambers finally passed the General Appropriations Act yesterday, ratifying the work of the bicameral conference committee.

The total budget amounted to P780.8 billion, exactly the same amount originally proposed by the Macapagal administration in August. But there is one major difference: the gift of a P2.28-billion increase in the pork barrel allocations for senators and congressmen.

Last month, the House approved Priority Development Assistance funds—the new name for the pork barrel—amounting to P3.39 billion, but this was raised to P5.67 billion in the bicameral conference committee.

Debt service ate up the bulk of the budget at 46 percent. A total of P204.2 billion was allocated for interest payments and P155.6 billion for principal amortization.

In the House, the budget was ratified in a record time of 35 minutes, with a simple voice vote and much applause by vacation-bound members.

The House suspended Section 89 of its rules mandating nominal voting on conference committee reports in favor of *viva voce* or a voice vote.

"The ayes have it. The conference committee report is overwhelmingly approved," Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

The House minority dropped its avowed opposition to the budget and started a hearty round of Christmas greetings.

Mandaluyong Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, a member of the bicam-

CONGRESS/ A17

President grilled by kids

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IT was not her usual kind of "grilling," but President Macapagal-Arroyo was game the whole time.

At the airing yesterday of her weekly TV program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," the President was interviewed by children for the first time. Viewers learned that she watches kung fu movies, and, as a child, liked cartoons, enjoyed geography, and once received a life-size walking doll from a godparent on Christmas.

"At the time it was bigger than I," she said of her favorite Christmas gift. "You know, I kept it until I had my own family, and I gave it to my daughter."

In previous airings of the show, a TV broadcaster interviewed the President on various national issues. This time, teenager Shaira Luna served as moderator of the program aired from the Christ the King Seminary in Galas, Quezon City.

Children aged between 7 and 12 took turns raising their questions. Part of the give-and-take went this way:

Can they go caroling at the President's house?

She will have to schedule it because security is tight in Malacañang.

Did she visit her godparents on Christmas Day?

She did not because her mother, former First Lady Eva Macapagal, frowned on such a practice.

Her favorite cartoon shows?

She watched "Sesame Street," "Voltes V" and "He-Man and the Masters of the Universe" with her three children when they were young.

PRESIDENT/ A16

6 Marcos cronies face forfeiture cases

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government filed on Friday four forfeiture petitions against six alleged Marcos cronies who were keeping Swiss bank deposits worth at least $16 million.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the petitions were filed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

He identified the six alleged cronies as former Marcos Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, who has $14 million in Swiss deposits; Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, who has $979,000 in deposits; Alfredo de Borja and Carmencita de Borja Clavecilla, who each had $500,000; and Fe Roa Gimenez and husband Ignacio Gimenez.

Carranza did not identify the Swiss banks which kept the deposits or how much the Gimenezes had in their account.

The government's main forfeiture case involves the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos estate and focuses on Swiss bank accounts under the names of five Marcos dummy foundations.

In 2000, the Sandiganbayan issued a landmark ruling awarding the money, now worth some $650 million, to the government, but the decision is currently on appeal.

Earlier, when Carranza first announced the PCGG's plan to file the forfeiture cases against the six alleged cronies, he said the accounts in question had already been frozen in 1986, the year the Marcoses fled to Hawaii.

It was in the same year that then President Corazon Aquino created the PCGG to recover all ill-gotten wealth accumulated by the Marcoses and their cronies.

"In some of them (the accounts), there were transfers made before they could be frozen," Carranza said then.

But Swiss authorities submitted documents related to the accounts

6 MARCOS/ A17

Interim gov't takes over in Afghanistan

KABUL—Hamid Karzai was sworn in as prime minister of Afghanistan's interim government Saturday, strengthening hopes he can heal a nation torn by decades of war.

The 44-year-old Pashtun tribal leader signed the oath of office before Chief Justice Mohammed Qasim in the country's first peaceful transfer of power in decades.

Karzai then embraced outgoing President Burhanuddin Rabbani as applause thundered in the cavernous hall packed with foreign diplomats who crossed oceans and tribal leaders who traveled dusty, hazardous roads to reach the capital, Kabul.

"I promise you that I will fulfill my mission to bring peace to Afghanistan," said Karzai, wearing a traditional lambskin hat and an Uzbek robe. He spoke in native Pashtu and also in Dari, Afghanistan's most popular languages.

"Our country, as a result of the long war, has been distracted. We need hard work from all Afghans," he said. "We should put our hands together to be brothers and friends. Forget the painful past."

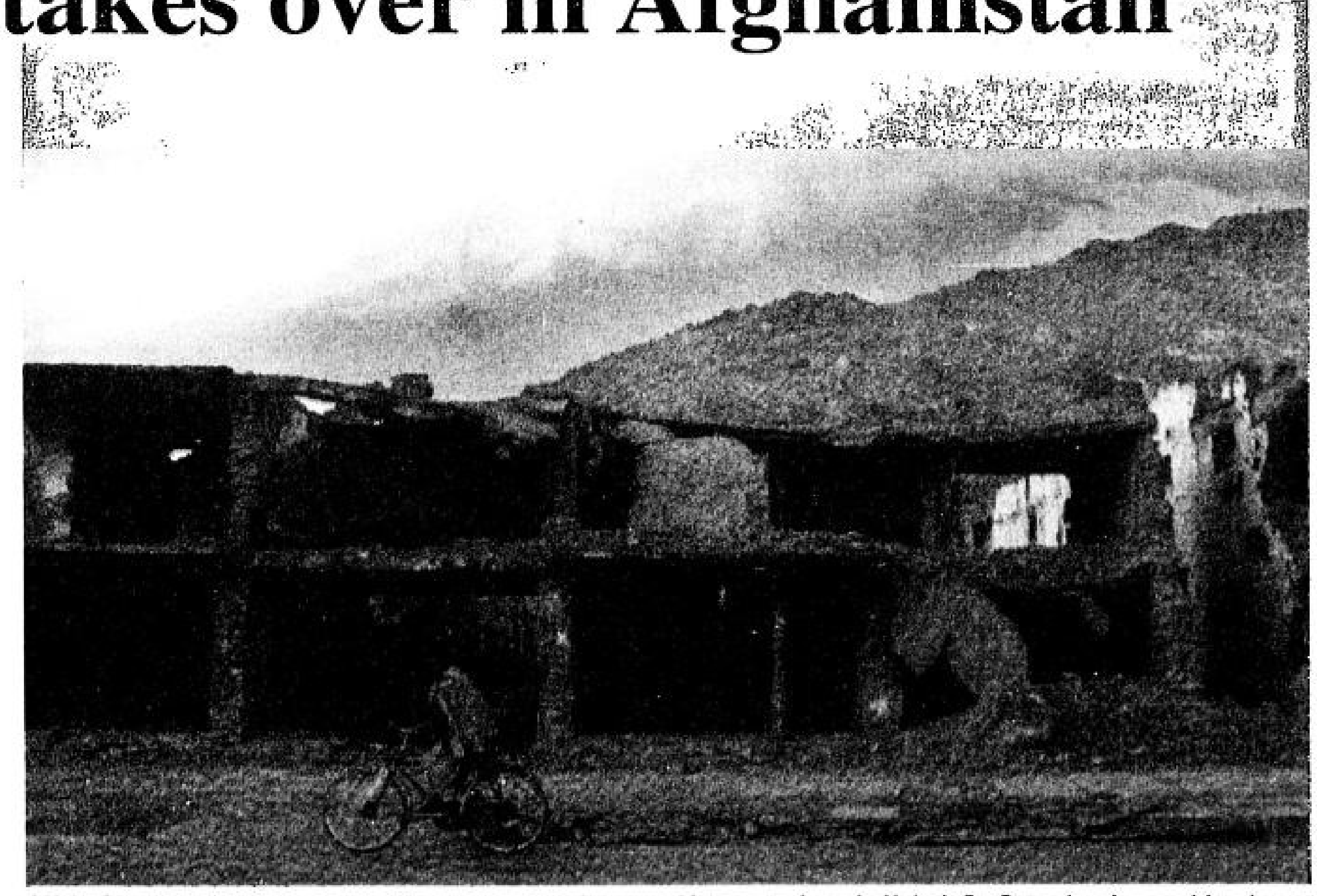
He smiled and bowed slightly when he finished. The audience of about 2,000 erupted in thunderous ovation.

Karzai then turned to swear in the 29 members of his Cabinet—including two women—standing behind him on the dais.

He also paid homage to Rabbini, with whom he has sharply disagreed in the past, telling him and the audience: "I must say Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar," or God is great.

The ceremony ended with Rabbani's signature on the

INTERIM/ A16



AN AFGHAN man on a bicycle passes by houses destroyed in years of war in Kabul. On Saturday, he would wake up to a new government and the arrival of foreign peacekeepers.

AP

ANO BA TALAGA? IN BA SIYA O OUT?

Abenina not stepping down yet

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Alcuin Papa

RETIRED general Edgardo Abenina is not stepping down just yet as Land Transportation Office chief, according to Malacañang.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wants him to stay put until she can appoint his replacement, former national police chief Roberto Lastimoso.

According to her spokesperson, the President may appoint Abenina to another position.

But the spokesperson of the retired general said Abenina quit the LTO and wants to stay out of government because he did not want to be "part of this corrupt government."

Police Supt. Hermogenes Tosino, technical executive assistant for media affairs of the LTO, said he did not know how Abenina would react to the plan to appoint him to another position in government.

"All I know is that right now, he feels bad," Tosino said. Abenina, who had yet to clear his office as of yesterday, himself could not be reached for comment.

Ms Macapagal on Friday said she would appoint Lastimoso to replace Abenina, who resigned that day.

She said she was replacing Abenina because he had reached the mandatory retirement age of 65, but Tosino had said on Friday that Abenina was forced to resign.

Ms Macapagal has yet to sign Lastimoso's appointment papers.

Her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said part of the reason for this was that Lastimoso might be covered by the law barring the appointment of any losing candidate within one year after the election.

Lastimoso was a nominee of the party-list group, Pusyon Bisaya Pilipino, which did not make it into Congress in the last May elections.

"We're still checking that out if there's a real issue... That's one of the reasons the President is still not signing (his papers)," Tiglao said.

Lastimoso testified at the impeachment trial that ousted President Joseph Estrada told him to go easy on "jueteng."

He corroborated the testimony of Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada benefited from the illegal numbers game.

In the meantime, according to Tiglao, Abenina will continue on as LTO chief.

"Abenina would vacate as soon as his replacement comes in... There's no real rush (to replace him)," he said.

He denied the claim of Abenina's former comrade in the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) that Abenina was relieved because of corruption in the agency.

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-NORIE TINIO Pasig City

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-Lucing Aranez

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Dec. 12, 2001
NANALO ako ng P28,000.00 sa 6/49 noong Sun. (Dec. 9, 2001) ginupit ko lang sa Tiktik yung Lucky Pyramid di na ako nag-abroad!
-JIMMY Payatas, Q.C.

Dec. 14, 2001
Pagkatapos ng dalawang araw na tumaya sa Jueteng, NANALO agad ako ng 3,500.00 at ang numero ay 13x33 kaya lubos ang aking paniniwala kay Engr. Centeno.(Balato P100.00)
EVELYN DIMAPILIS
3 Stardust St. Phase I-D
Moonwalk Las Piñas City

Dec. 15, 2001
Nasugatan ako sa daliri sa paa ng nagpapedicure ako at namaga at masakit, hindi ako makapagsapatos. Itinapat ko ang White Pyramid w/ face of Jesus at naramdaman ko na parang hinihigop sa loob. Paggising ko kinabukasan, nawala ang kirot at unti-unting natuyo ang sugat ko.
GIRLIE ng QC Hall

Dec. 14, 2001
NANALO ng P200,000 sa Casino. Pyramid Green. Ginamit sa negosyo.
-Zaldy Pineda, 1681 Sta. Cruz Mla.

Dec. 16, 2001
Ginupit ko lang sa ads Abante Tonight. Nilagay ko sa wallet, NANALO ako sa ending. 3-4 ang tinayaan ko, P3,500.00 ang panalo ko. -MEANN ng Cavite

BALITANG SUWERTE
Sept. 25, 2001
LAST MONEY Bumili ng LUCKY PYRAMID, NANALO ng JACKPOT sa LOTTO 4-Digit 4754 (tip ng JC Herbal) sa Olivarez pinataya ni Engr. Centeno Nanalo po sa sabong
Nonong Nicolas ng ng Sta Rita Aplaya Batangas City
Salamat sa balato P[illegible]
***
Sept. 25, 2001
Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Engr. M Centeno dahil lumalabas ang binigay niyang 4 digit TIP sa LOTTO.
Willy ng Sta Cruz Laguna
***
Emy ng San Antonio Los Baños, nanalo ng P20,000 sa 6/42 LOTTO nakabili ng RED PYRAMID sa JC Herbal Los Baños
***
14 Oct 2001
German Gonzales (Biñan)
Last Week lang bumili ng GOLD PYRAMID, nanalo ng P300,000 JACKPOT SA BINGO

-HERBAL-
EFFECTIVE ANG LOVEMATE nakabili ako sa SM North EDSA Magaling kaya hinanap ko pa, pinuntehan ko pa sa Los Baños. Bumili ako. BIG J.
--ooOoo--
VERY EFFECTIVE ang OVAGEN pampa-TABA, sumikip na ang mga damit ko. Aling Rosa ng Kanluran,Bayog Los Baños
--ooOoo--
VERY EFFECTIVE ang pampa-LINAW ng MATA 17 Nov. 2001
Hindi na po ako gumagamit ng salamin simula ng gumamit ako ng MIRACLE OIL. Talaga pong effective ang MIRACLE OIL. Thank you po kay Engr. Margie Centeno. & Thank you Lord Jesus Christ.
JOSIE- Bulacan
--ooOoo--
Dec. 17, 2001
Gumaling na and Diabetes ko sa nabili kong Dia-B-Tea sa JC Herbal. Gumaling na ang sugat ko sa paa sa JC Miracle Oil & Dia-B-Tea.
CONCHITA LUYAO
Tunasan Muntinlupa
--ooOoo--
Bumili ako ng pangpabait ng asawa ko ngayon po ay umipekto na.
Mahusay City
Mamatin Cabuyao

Dec. 17, 2001
Congrats!!! Govt. Employee Ricardo M. ng Cagayan de Oro, NANALO ng JACKPOT sa Bingo ng P50,000.00 ginupit lang ang ads sa Daily Inquirer kinabukasan NANALO, Nakabayad sa utang.

Dec. 17, 2001
Ginupit ko lang sa Dyaryo Daily Inquirer NANALO ako sa Jueteng ng P3,500.00
-RODRIGO ACCUVIDA Pangasinan

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Fr. Robert Reyes - Main Presider
Alumni Priests - Co – Celebrants

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Silver Jubilarians, Class of 1976
Awarding of plaques of Recognition to Achievement Awardees and Outstanding Alumni
Dinner Dance

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SJAAAI President, Mrs. Esperanza Naval Prim at 2810929; 2826236
SJAAAI Member, Mrs. Nellie Sibug at 2813226

High court affirms justice's dismissal

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court has denied a motion for reconsideration filed by dismissed Court of Appeals Associate Justice Demetrio Demetria, which sought to reverse its ruling finding him guilty of gross misconduct.

In a full court resolution, the high court reiterated its earlier ruling that "the evidence is clear, if not overwhelming and damning" that Demetria did intercede for convicted drug queen Yu Yuk Lai.

"Absent any showing of bias, partiality, flaw or grave abuse of discretion, we shall not disturb (the) findings," the tribunal said in a nine-page en banc resolution promulgated on Dec. 19.

However, the court modified its March 27 ruling by granting Demetria his leave credits. "(I)nsofar as the accrued leave credits of respondent Demetrio G. Demetria (which) were all ordered forfeited, in which case, his accrued leave credits shall be released to him in accordance with Section 11, Rule 140, Rules of Court, as amended," the SC said.

The high court also denied Demetria's plea to be allowed to personally argue his case before an en banc (full court) session.

"The Manifestation and Motion for Oral Argument is likewise denied for lack of merit, while respondent's letter dated 8 Oct. 2001 for reconsideration of the decision is merely noted," the court stressed.

The decision has frustrated Demetria's effort to be reinstated as CA justice or to seek a lighter penalty since the decision is already considered final. The high court does not usually entertain a second motion for reconsideration.

In its March 27 ruling, the high court sacked Demetria for interceding on Yu's behalf, which is a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The high court then ordered that all his retirement benefits be forfeited and that he be barred from joining government service.

In the 18-page decision, the high court found that Demetria not only made a "mockery of his high office, but also (caused) incalculable damage to the entire judiciary."

"There is simply no place in the judiciary for those who cannot meet the exacting standards of judicial conduct and integrity," the tribunal stressed.

Except for Associate Justice Reynato Puno, who was abroad on official business at the time, the full court unanimously approved the resolution.

Demetria and Manila Judge Manuel Muro, who earlier handled Yu's case, were both dismissed by the high court for bias toward the drug queen.

Yu, alias Anita Uy, and her nephew, Kenneth Moncada, alias William Sy, were sentenced to life imprisonment on Sept. 25 for selling three kilos of shabu in 1998. The two are both Taiwanese.

Saying the penalty was "too harsh," Demetria sought a reconsideration of the decision in a motion filed on April 11.

In his motion, Demetria asserted that he did not meddle in Yu's case "nor is there any showing beyond reasonable doubt that he did."

He maintained that "if at all any penalty should be visited upon (him) for what he did... a reprimand may perhaps be considered 'appropriate."

In his manifestation and motion for oral argument filed on Sept. 13, Demetria said he believed that he could convince the court "of the justness of his cause."

In a letter on Oct. 8, Demetria reiterated that the penalty imposed on him was too harsh.

However, 13 SC justices did not give credence to his arguments. Only Associate Justice Santiago Kapunan dissented.

Local airlines to get a break from airport

By N. Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT is prepared to lose P50 million in revenues from local airline companies to help prop up the country's aviation industry in light of the drastic drop in passenger traffic in recent months.

Airport General Manager Edgardo Manda announced that local airlines would be given a two and half percent discount from their landing and takeoff fees. Office rentals at the air terminals, on the other hand, would be subject to a huge 50 percent slash.

He said that the discounted rates already have the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The general manager contested earlier reports that they have slashed 50 percent off the landing and takeoff fees and the office rentals, altogether.

Manda said the discounted rates at the country's airports would be implemented for six months, starting this January until the end of June.

While the government expects to lose P100 million annually if the discounted rates are continued until the end of 2002, Manda said there would be unseen financial benefits for all concerned in the local aviation business.

Manda's announcement comes in the light of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez's proposal to give local airline companies some form of economic relief to cope with unmet income targets as a result of the drop in passenger traffic.

Makati bomb meant to scare, but not to kill

By Alcuin Papa
and Dona Pazzibugan

THE POLICE are investigating an unnamed group they suspect was behind the bomb planted in the central business district of Makati the other day. But bomb experts from the Makati City police already ruled out any link between last year's Rizal Day bombings and the bomb found outside the Allied Bank head office on Friday.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao described Friday's bomb, which forced the evacuation of numerous offices including the embassies of Great Britain and Canada, as meant primarily to embarrass the Macapagal administration and not to cause mayhem. The bomb did not even have a triggering mechanism, he said.

Police Director Edgardo Aglipay, head of police forces in the national capital region, admitted in a television interview that "we already have suspects but it would be very premature to inform the public of who the group is."

He said they were not ruling out other suspects, adding that "all groups from the extreme left to extreme right are being looked into but there is a specific group that we are following up right now."

Different signature

Police officer Gerry Dino, chief of the Makati City Police Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosives Ordnance Division (SWAT-EOD), told reporters yesterday that the "signature" in the construction of the bomb was different from those used in the Rizal Day explosions which killed 17 and injured 102.

Each bomb maker has his own favorite way of constructing bombs and the layout of a specific bomb becomes the "signature" of its maker.

Another bomb disposal expert, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that the bomb discovered the other day was "very different" from the bombs used last year.

"The way the blasting caps were improvised is different. So was the explosive material used," he said.

He also pointed out that the Allied Bank bomb was cruder than the homemade bomb which exploded in Muntinlupa last month, killing its maker.

But the bomb experts said the package found the other day packed more power than any of the bombs, which exploded last year.

The President met with the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security yesterday morning in Malacañang. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and AFP*

Cops seize 58 kilos of shabu; 7 nabbed

POLICE seized 58 kilos of shabu and arrested at least seven Chinese nationals during a sting operation in Pasay City and a follow-up operation in Binondo, Manila, on Friday.

The sting operation was conducted by anti-narcotics agents in Pasay City where the suspects, including a woman, were arrested. The mastermind was identified as Peter Chua. The other suspects were not identified.

A total of 18 kilos were recovered from the suspects' car in Pasay.

Director Edgardo Aglipay of the National Capital Region Police Office, said the Chinese were arrested on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay.

"This was initially reported as an abduction. But this was a legitimate anti-drug operation by the police," Aglipay said.

A follow-up operation, this time assisted by Manila policemen, netted 40 more kilos from Chua's Kia Carnival van, which was parked in Binondo.

Supt. Juanito de Guzman, Station 11 commander of the Western Police District, said the shabu was found inside the van at the Chinatown Steel Tower car park on Asuncion Street in Binondo.

Policemen arrived at the building around 10 a.m. to conduct a search on Chua's car, which was parked at the fourth floor parking area.

The police coordinated with the building's administrator, Julito Reposo, but it was only at 3:30 p.m. when the police were allowed to the parking area because Reposo was demanding a search warrant from the policemen.

The search was conducted in the presence of Reposo, internal security officials and Chua's secretary, identified only as Marrieta.

De Guzman said van yielded a blue traveling bag that contained the drug cache. The shabu were packed in 40 plastic bags.

In a phone interview, De Guzman told the INQUIRER that the shabu was still in granulated form and that he was certain it was high-grade.

The drugs were later turned over to Chief Insp. Napoleon Villegas of the ANG's anti-trafficking division.

Nur to be deported mid-January

MISUARI

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia has decided on a tentative date in mid-January to send Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari back to the Philippines, a top official said Saturday.

Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, secretary general of the foreign ministry, confirmed reports quoting Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar as saying Misuari may remain in Malaysia until the middle of next month.

"As what was said by the minister, in mid-January or some time next month, that is the tentative date as it is for now," Ahmad Fuzi said.

Syed Hamid said late Friday that Manila was currently unable to take custody of Misuari for security reasons, but stressed that Malaysia was eager to deport the rebel leader and was only holding him on behalf of the Philippines.

"We still hold on to the understanding that he must be deported as soon as possible... the sooner, the better, because we do not want to be in limbo," he was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times daily.

"Nur Misuari is neither a refugee nor an asylum seeker. The most important thing now is that we already have an agreement... which is to deport him.

"The timing for his deportation is just an administrative matter," the foreign minister said after returning from a meeting in Manila to discuss Misuari's fate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo Friday rejected an appeal from the Organization of the Islamic Conference for Misuari to be given sanctuary in a third country and instead vowed to put him on trial for rebellion.

Ms Macapagal's administration was reportedly unhappy about taking Misuari back immediately for fear he could become a rallying point for Muslim discontent in the southern Philippines.

His followers launched an uprising last month in a futile attempt to derail elections that ended Misuari's five-year hold on the governorship of a Muslim self-rule region.

Misuari fled after the short-lived rebellion, and was arrested with six followers off an island in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island on Nov. 24.

The government had earlier floated the idea of sending Misuari to Libya to head off a violent backlash by his supporters, but stressed Friday that this was no longer on the table.

AFP

Man sentenced to 4 years in US bond scam

HONG KONG—An American businessman was sentenced to four years in jail for possessing a huge amount of fake US bonds, said court and anti-graft officials Saturday.

Judge Fergal Sweeney said the amount of the forged US Federal Reserve Notes and bonds—with a face value over $226.9 billion—possessed by Chase Joseph Wang Tisoni, 59, and his former boss, Edilberto Marcos, was "stunning," the Independent Commission Against Corruption said in a statement.

Tisoni also tried settling a $205,000 hotel bill for himself and Marcos with a bad check, said the anti-graft agency.

Tisoni argued he was a victim of the scam perpetrated by Marcos, who claimed to be a son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos—an explanation dismissed by Judge Sweeney, said the English-language newspaper South China Morning Post.

Judge Sweeney said Tisoni must have realized that helping Marcos, who is still at large in the United States, to trade the fake bonds was dishonest, the newspaper report said. *AP*

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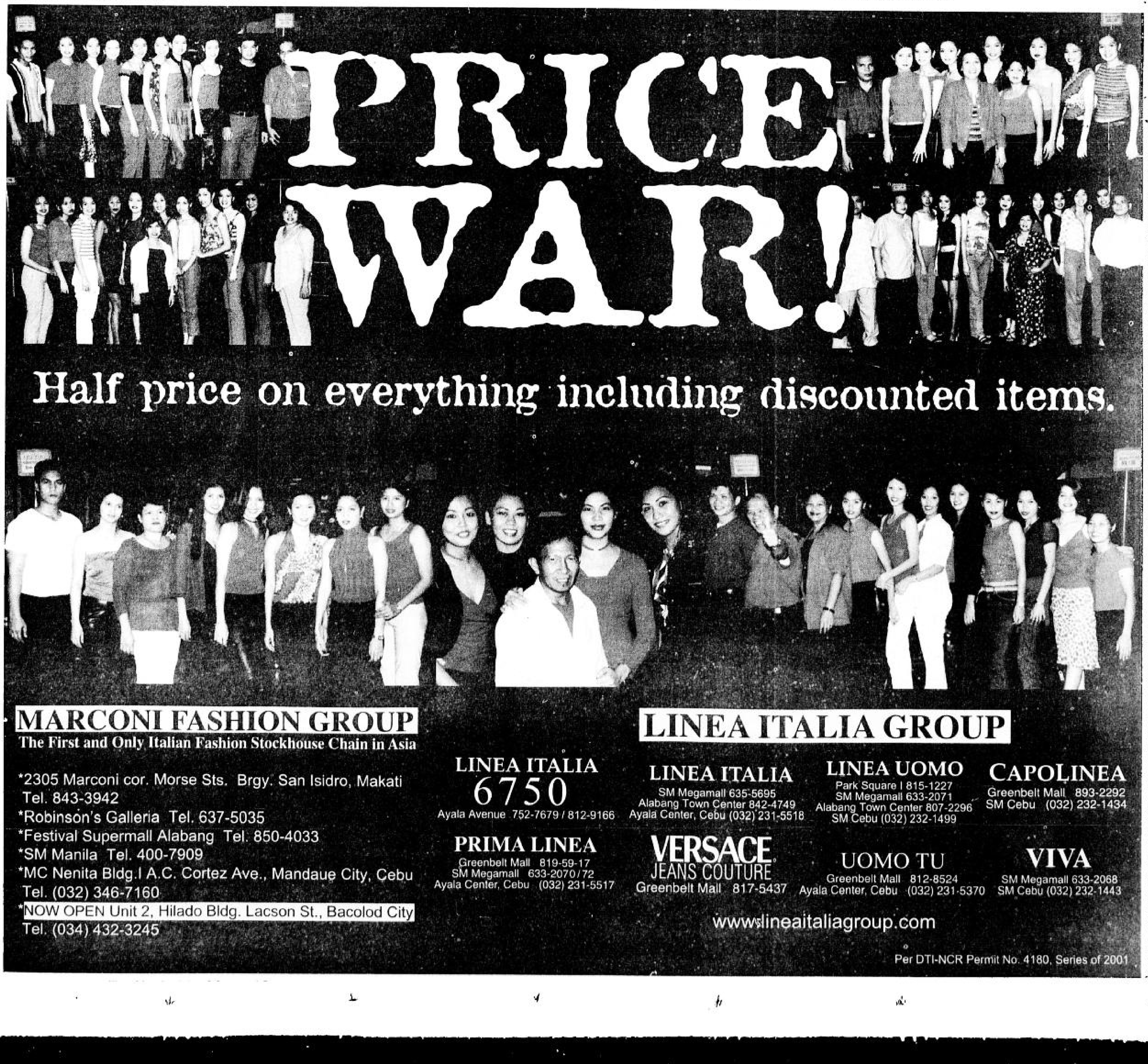
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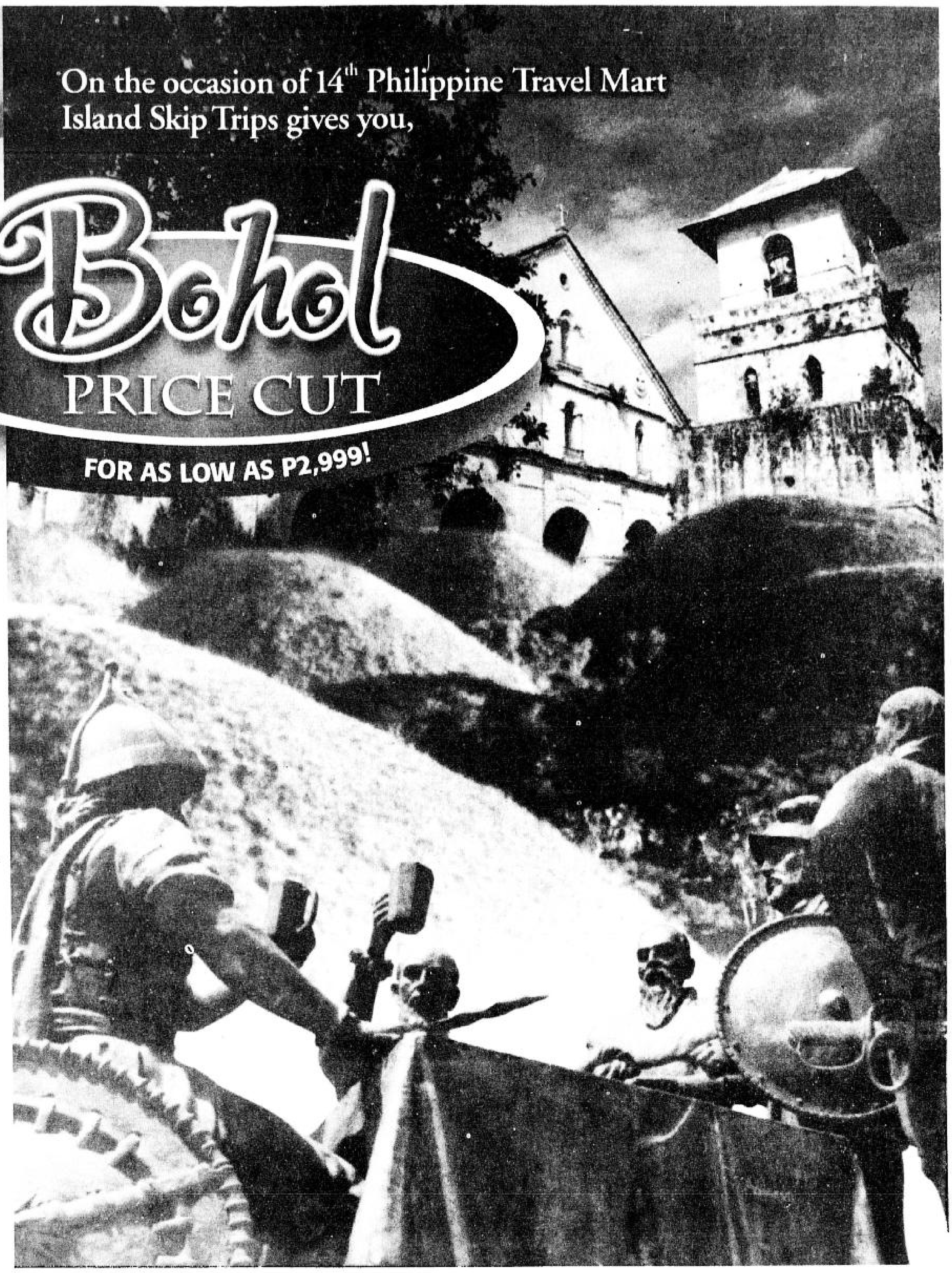

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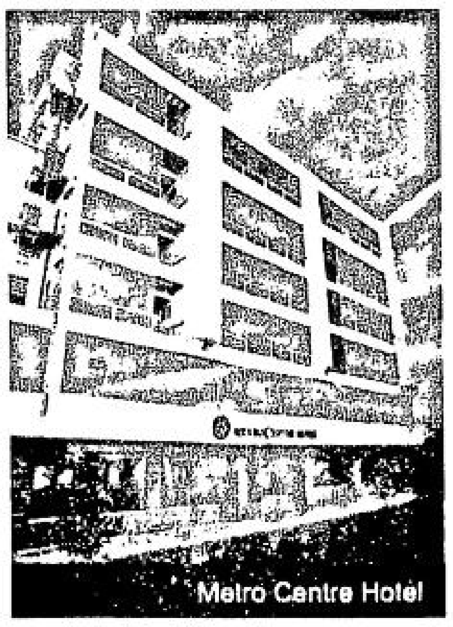

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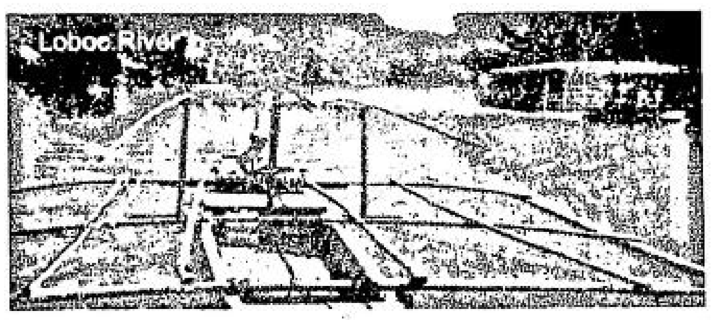

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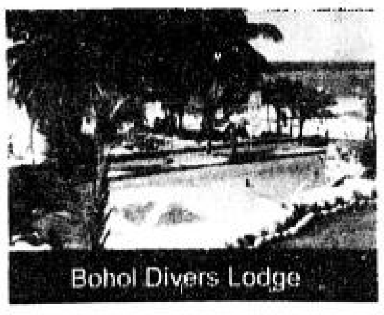

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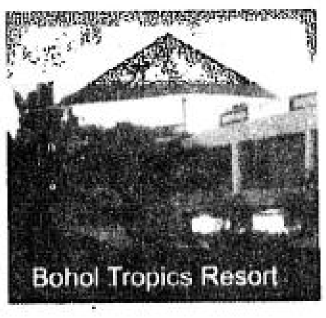

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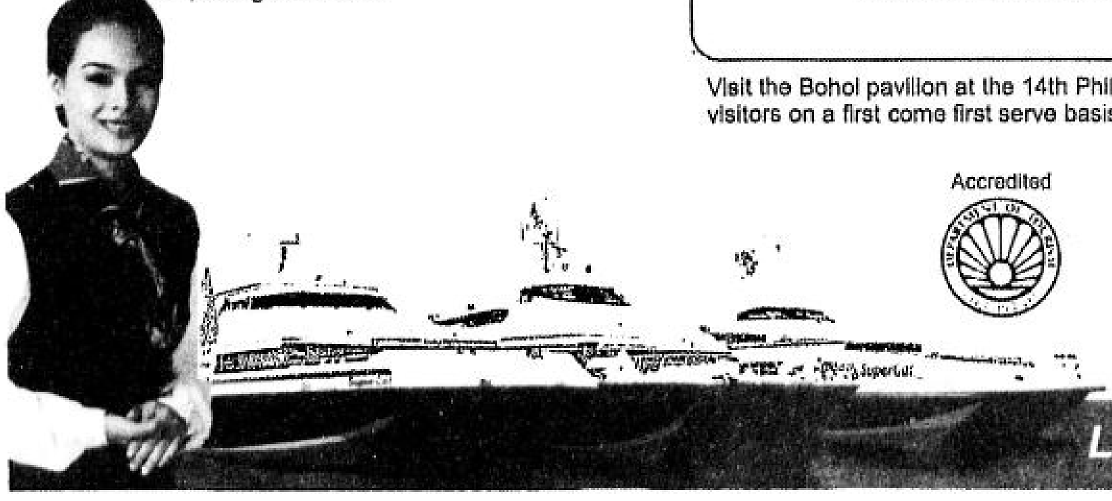

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Pagcor reports record income

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. yesterday said it achieved its income target for the year of P16. 15 billion and will pass the P17-billion mark by yearend, capping a "phenomenal year" for one of the country's most profitable corporations.

Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said the gaming corporation broke its income record "despite the shattering economic turmoil that characterized the global landscape in 2001."

"We have done this through scientific management and humane leadership and the fantastic efforts of all our people," Genuino said in a press statement. "We hope that Pagcor's increased revenues will go a long way in helping President Macapagal-Arroyo uplift the poorest among our people."

Pagcor said it earned P15.95 billion from its operations for the 11-month period ending Nov. 30. For December, records show that Pagcor's income from the winnings of its 13 casinos and slot machine arcade (bingo income not included) amounted to P870 million, bringing Pagcor's income for 2001 to P16.82 billion, with still two weeks to go before the end of the year.

Pagcor's projected income of over P17-billion by yearend will exceed by almost 20 percent the previous record of P14.6 billion total income last year, said Genuino, who took over the Pagcor leadership this year.

"We offer this achievement to President Arroyo. Her leadership, her clear directive to produce outstanding results, have been our inspiration and our guide," he added.

Genuino attributed Pagcor's "phenomenal year" to employees', high morale resulting in increased productivity, the ongoing casino expansion and modernization program, and the shift in the marketing thrust of Casino Filipino from gaming to entertainment for the whole family.

Genuino said he expects to improve Pagcor's performance next year with the opening of additional slot machine arcades and the inflow of investments for the P15-billion Pagcor Entertainment City, which is touted this early as the "Las Vegas of Asia."

Pagcor E-City, to be built on a 62-hectare reclaimed area on Roxas Boulevard, will boost the Philippines' bid to become an entertainment capital and major tourist destination in Asia. It will have world-class casinos, convention centers, music halls, giant theme parks, sports stadiums, shopping malls, a cultural complex, residential condominiums and office blocks.

Palace hoping for hostages' release before Christmas

MALACAÑANG yesterday expressed hope that an American couple and a Filipina nurse held hostage for over six months by Abu Sayyaf bandits would be freed by the end of the year, but ruled out paying a ransom.

The military has been given instructions to block any group helping the Abu Sayyaf get ransom in exchange for the release of American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap, said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Asked by reporters if the hostages would be released by yearend, Tiglao said: "We hope so."

"The military has specific instructions to interdict anyone suspected of linking up with the Abu Sayyaf for payment. We are closing (in) on them."

"If they get ransom, they get finances to rebuild their weakened forces," Tiglao said.

The governor of Basilan this week made a public appeal that no ransom be paid to free the hostages amid rumors of a P40-P50 million-ransom demand from the Abu Sayyaf.

The hostages are believed to be held by the rebel group in its jungle stronghold in Basilan.

In recent months, officials have set, and missed, a series of targets for the freeing of the hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf group professes to fight for an Islamic state in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines but pursues kidnap for ransom as its main activity.

Members of the guerrilla group kidnapped the Burnhams and 18 others from a beach resort in May and took them to Basilan, where they captured more hostages. Yap was grabbed in June.

The Abu Sayyaf released some of the hostages in exchange for ransom but beheaded several others, including an American.

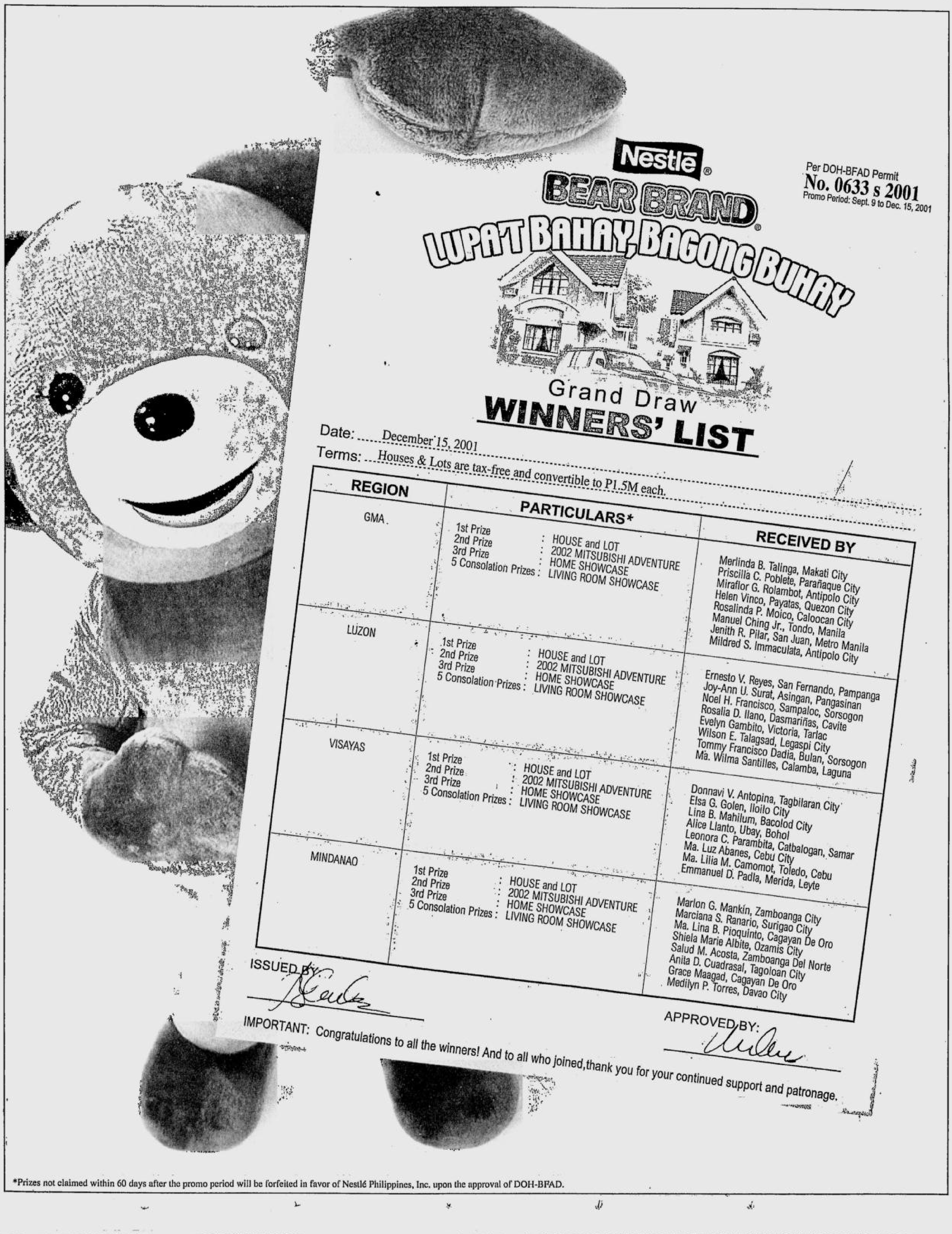
A Filipino hostage rescued in October had said that the Abu Sayyaf was demanding a ransom of $2 million for the Burnhams.

The United States has linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida network of Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden.

The Philippines group gained global notoriety last year when it kidnapped mostly European tourists in a resort in neighboring Malaysia.

Most of the hostages were released, except for one Filipino, upon payment of millions of dollars in ransom, local newspapers have said.

Reuters



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OPINION

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The five magi

EDITORIAL

YES, Virginia, there truly are wise men roaming the earth, bearing gifts of myrrh, frankincense and gold. In fact, five of them happen to be sitting on the board of directors of the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate. They have apparently let go of the first two royal gifts, but in their wisdom they have decided to hang on to the gold.

They are surely wise, because during the Estrada administration they were chosen to represent the government in the affairs of San Miguel Corp., one of the country's pre-eminent firms and responsible by itself for something like 4 percent of the gross domestic product.

The reason the government is in San Miguel in the first place is a story all its own, which only wise men, such as leading partners of the storied Accra law firm and far-sighted members of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, can possibly understand. Much of SMC's equity was sequestered in 1986, soon after the wisest man in Philippine history, constitutional impresario Ferdinand Marcos, fled to safety abroad; the sequestration was based on suspicion that the shares were ill-gotten, or were purchased with the use of public funds. In other words, since 1986 the government has placed wise men on the SMC board to protect the public interest.

Thus, when the Estrada administration installed Raul de Guzman, Alan Lopez Lee, Benjamin Paulino, Hermogenes Tantoco and Espiridion Laxa as directors in 1999, a few months after Estrada benefactor and Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco reassumed the chairmanship of San Miguel, the public knew that its interests were well-served by five wise men.

De Guzman, for example, was a University of the Philippines chancellor, an honor almost as prestigious as his other distinction, that of being the then-President's brother-in-law. And Laxa was fully qualified to pass judgment on complicated corporate matters, having been, like Estrada himself, a veteran player in the complicated movie industry.

On a technicality, the five wise men were renominated to the board in January this year, and then reelected in May. The Macapagal administration missed the Jan. 30 deadline for sending a new list of nominees, because it was preoccupied with minor matters like ensuring the survival of a new, popularly installed government. But through court action it did try to stop the nomination and then the board election, to no avail.

In their wisdom, the five wise men stayed put. In the beginning, before the Presidential Commission on Good Government was reconstituted, they defended their behavior by saying they were agents of the PCGG, the 15-year-old government agency tasked with the recovery of ill-gotten wealth.

When the PCGG joined the new solicitor general in asking for their resignation, they changed tack, and averred that they were duly nominated and duly elected, and thus had the mandate to finish the term they started.

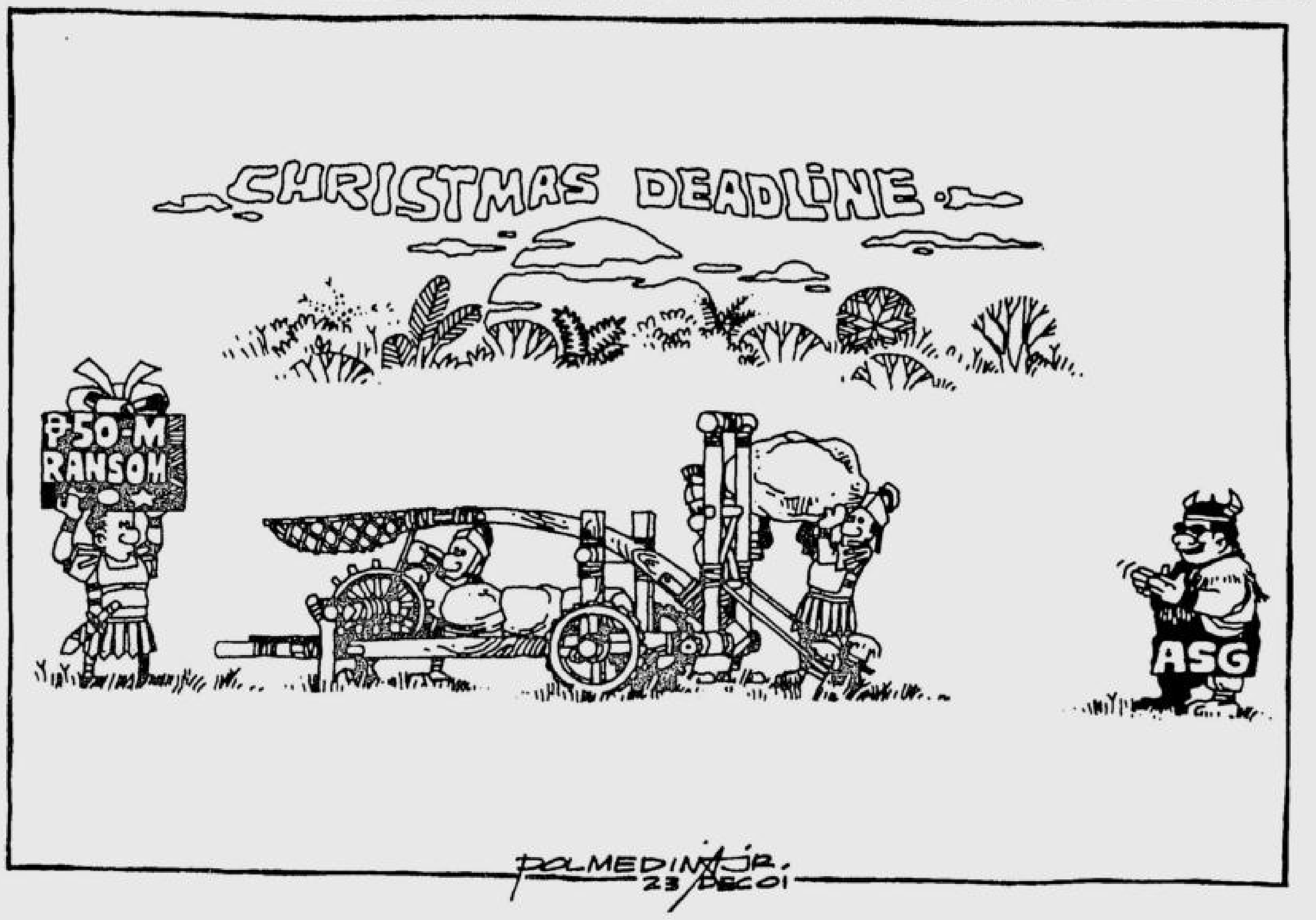
After the Supreme Court ruled in December that the controversial coconut levy funds used to buy United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel shares were indeed public funds, the five wise men stuck to their rationale. Laxa, interviewed on TV, put the matter simply. We were elected by the stockholders, he said. Only the stockholders can vote us out, he implied.

Now here truly is a nugget of wisdom. Consider the following:

The government has long been represented in SMC by the chairmen of the two biggest pension funds in the country. They are there because both the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System have invested a substantial portion of their portfolio in SMC's blue-chip stock. Unlike PCGG representatives, their right to sit on the board is not a political consideration. But when the Macapagal administration took over, the Estrada appointees immediately made way for their successors. In contrast, the five wise men—mere nominees, who did not even invest in the company—continue to sit as directors.

Laxa correctly pointed out that they are only answerable to the stockholders. What he seems to have forgotten in his wisdom, however, is that since 1986 the government through the PCGG has been the controlling stockholder in SMC. It shouldn't remain so for much longer, but that is beside the point. The point is the power to appoint is also the power to remove. The PCGG appointed them in 1999; they have been effectively removed in 2001. What are they still doing there?

It is time to remind the wise of the consequences of their folly.



When does Christmas begin?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE of the controversies of the Christian world (or at least in the Philippines) is when the Christmas season is supposed to begin. Various quarters have different views to which they have suited their acts.

According to the Catholic Church, Christmas begins on the 16th of December, the start of the traditional nine-day Misa de Gallo culminating in the Midnight Mass on Christmas Day. The bracing weather as the faithful troop to church in the early morning mist heightens the expectancy of Christmas, especially among sweethearts.

The radio and television people do not agree. They started their countdown on December 1st and say that there are now only two days before Christmas. Some even began playing Christmas carols last October, probably to whip up enthusiasm for the pre-Christmas sales the business people were planning.

Several families in our village began displaying their Christmas lights as early as last month, saying it's not worth the trouble of stringing them up with so much care if you have to remove them only a few days later. Some decorations are really intricate and crafted with a lot of patience and even art, not to mention expense. You could almost weep to see them dismantled.

These resolute revelers will reluctantly remove their lights sometime in mid-January after a struggle with custom and tradition and mocking reminders from their friends and neighbors that the holidays are over. The lights will be lovingly and carefully stored like tender toys until they are retrieved for active service again next November.

Children have their own ideas. They are not bound by adult conventions and inhibitions. They will start caroling as soon as the mood strikes them and force Christmas upon the gown-ups for some candies or centavos. Most parents do not discourage their children from their nocturnal adventures as long as they are back home at bedtime. Children should be allowed to squeeze the most fun they can out of the season, for pleasurable reminiscing when they are older.

My wife sticks to the Catholic view. She shooed away the premature carolers in our village, telling them to come back on the 16th and not earlier. The children did as told and have been caroling in earnest, determined to make a pretty pile for their Christmas kitty. Their singing is hardly Pavarotti but in their case, it is the song, not the singer.

And these young serenaders have come back again and again, hoping my wife would not recognize them with her eagle eyes. What is more, they have tipped off their fellow carolers about the easy pickings in that house with a lawn from the strict but generous owner. The grapevine has spread the news and it won't be long before the coins in my wife's Christmas jar are exhausted.

What is the reason for this general spirit of giving during the Yuletide? Many say there must be an opening of hearts at this time because, after all, Christmas comes but once a year, no matter when it officially begins. This is the opportunity for us to redeem ourselves for our past selfishness, or, to be egoistic, to insure future friendliness or service, like gifting the boss or tipping the garbage collector.

I respectfully dissent. There are some, and I am one of them, who believe that Christmas should be observed not only on Dec. 25 but every day of the year. Commencing on Jan. 1 and ending on Dec. 31, it should start again on the first day of the new year and end on its last, repeat the cycle in the succeeding year with the same beginning and the same end, and so on indefinitely in a continuing and self-replenishing process.

There is no prescribed period for generosity. It is not only in the Yuletide that we can spread the message of peace on earth and goodwill to all men. It is not a message that should be heard only from the preachings of priests and pastors but in the acts of ordinary men and women who cherish the Almighty as their greatest gift.

Christmas is a day for the sharing of love, the renewal of friendships, the healing of wounds that have festered, and, most importantly, a prayerful thanksgiving for the bounties of heaven. And yes, it is also a day for atonement for our neglect of the poor among us whom many of the better-fed will finally acknowledge with a share of their abundant blessings.

These are ordinary acts we can perform any day of the week. We do not have to wait for Dec. 25 to understand why Jesus chose to be born in a manger as the Son of Man. These are not special acts that are required for the canonization of saints or only as a passport to paradise. These could be the everyday conduct of any person who believes in the joy of living and of sharing it with others.

Only if we understand this can we say that we are a truly Christian nation. Only then can Christmas cease to be the pagan commercial carnival it has become and recover its original meaning as a reverent remembering of God.

I wish for all of us a most enjoyable Yuletide, in the bosom of our families and the company of cherished friends. The place does not matter, be it mansion or hovel, as long as we are moved by the true spirit of Christmas, which urges us to love one another, to help one another, and to pray for one another.

Pardon me if this sounded like a homily. I just wanted to greet you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

What if…

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I MISSED my flight to Tacloban yesterday. I thought I had enough time to reach the airport, but the traffic was terrible. I felt bad that all the efforts to organize the healing Mass came to nothing. Perhaps I could have touched a soul or two, but I did not make it in time for the flight, and that was that. Something did not go right, and I missed my flight.

* * *

What if something did not go right on the first Christmas? The Gospel today (Mt. 1, 18-24) mentions the two key players in the unfolding of God's plan of the incarnation. But what if Mary and Joseph did not cooperate with God's plan? What if, for example, Mary refused to become the mother of God? She could have turned down God's offer.

And what if Joseph, being a righteous man, refused to be a part of the shameful situation? After all, it was a case of teenage pregnancy and the father was unknown! Or worse, what if, in the process, the two decided to abort the Baby so as to avoid all the hassles and inconveniences of bringing forth and raising a child, and just went on with their normal lives as if nothing happened?

Anything could have happened. In fact, Joseph thought of divorcing Mary quietly early on. God's eternal plan rested on the yes of two fragile mortals. The whole company of heaven must have stopped and prayed as the two pondered their decision. It was a case of sudden death. It could have gone either way: that of becoming the "weakest link" or "Game *na*!"

For Mary and Joseph, it was "Game *na*!"

* * *

With their yes, the heavens rejoiced. With their yes, a newborn Child's cry was eventually heard in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night. This yes persisted in spite of doubts and questions as the Child grew up, as he went public proclaiming the Good News, as He performed miracles, as He was condemned, and as He let out the painful cry of a dying man on the cross at Calvary.

This Christmas, let us remember and be grateful to Joseph and Mary. Without them, there could have been no Christmas. Without them, Jesus could have missed His "flight."

* * *

Joke time! Question: When was the first plane ride of the Holy Family? Answer: On their flight to Egypt! Question: Who was the pilot? Answer: Ah…Pontius Pilot?!

* * *

The obedience and cooperation of Joseph and Mary should be a reminder for all of us that we, no matter how small and unworthy, have a role to play in God's plan of Redemption. God has chosen insignificant mortals like us to be His partners. Christmas is a timely reminder for all of us to do our part, no matter how small, no matter how hidden, in "helping" God. At Christmas, the Lord reminds you and me again: "Without Me you can do nothing, but with you, I also can do something. *O, anak* game *ka na ba*? Game *ka pa rin ba*?"

* * *

Did you have a "Christmas moment" already? The days before Christmas are very busy days for all of us, and it could happen that the "rush" would deprive us of the real feel of Christmas. But God has a way of reminding us of His presence, if only we take time to reflect and listen.

One Christmas moment I had was when I was fetched at 3:30 a.m. for a dawn Mass somewhere in Tondo. The enthusiastic people who fetched me came in an old arthritic taxi. It was a joyful Mass in a simple chapel among the poorest of the poor.

Now comes the best part. After the Mass, there was no more taxi. They wanted to bring me back by tricycle. Somehow we all fit in that little sleigh, laughing all the way!

* * *

Another Christmas moment was when I had a street dawn Mass in Sampaloc's "home along the *riles*." As I started the Mass, I noticed that I was audible but not visible to the many people to my left and to my right because the altar was inside the apartment's garage. So, I stopped and asked the lay ministers (Bless them all who serve at the Lord's table!) to bring out the altar right into the street where I could be seen and heard by all.

Maybe that's what Christmas is all about. God wanted to be seen and heard and touched by all, so He left His comfortable setup and became one of us, and dwelt among us. Emmanuel—"God is with us."

This Christmas, reach out, move out of your comfort zones and reach out to God in gratitude, to people around you who are in need, and to your very own family.

* * *

Christmas is hope. Don't give up. Let's continue praying and working for a better Philippines along with the prayer that the Lord cleanse us of those who make the already difficult lives of our people even more difficult.

* * *

P.S. Help and pray for our missionaries abroad, especially this Christmas. SVD Mission Office, P.O. Box 1375, Manila, Philippines; 721-74-57; 727-11-60: e-mail address: jorbos@manila-online.net

* * *

The first Christmas was simple, quiet and austere, but it was so full of joy, hope, love and was so focused on Christ. It was Mama Mary's first Christmas.

Here's wishing you all a Merry, but more so, a Mary Christmas!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me celebrate Christmas with no ifs and a whole lifetime with no buts. Amen.

Time to go parliamentary

COMMENTARY

Fructuoso Suzara

THE PRESIDENTIAL system, after 55 years of use, has failed us. So we must find and establish that form of government which will gather the best minds from the broadest base to usher in economic progress, lasting peace and competitiveness in the international marketplace.

The changing world order brought about by globalization, the information revolution that has erased national boundaries and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States only compound our basic problems which cry for solutions. So then let us dream of adopting the parliamentary system.

There are many good reasons for adopting this system. First, it will result in the fusion of Congress and Malacañang. Instead of two competing sets of bureaucracy, the legislature and the executive department, there will only be one—parliament—which makes and executes the laws. It is not only simple but also economical and less confrontational.

Second, it will mean the merger of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Legislation will be done by only one parliament, instead of two competing lawmaking bodies. We will do away with the bickering between the Senate and the House, meaning that lawmaking will be speedier. This is also more economical and less confrontational and so we will be spared from hearing too many boring privilege speeches delivered by more than 200 politicians.

Third, a parliamentary system will result in greater public accountability. Instead of fixed terms, which practically guarantee immunity to erring elective officials, a simple majority vote by parliament will be enough to dislodge them from their positions. Direct and immediate retribution will scare opportunists and wrongdoers in government.

How can 114 countries which adopted the parliamentary system be wrong?

Fourth, political parties will be strengthened. Instead of the empty shibboleths and hollow posturing of pseudo political parties, we will have political parties that will espouse clear programs of government. The electorate will be enlightened and helped to make intelligent choices instead of choosing candidates on the basis of mere popularity. With strong political parties pursuing their own programs of government, there will be continuity in our country's goals instead of changing plans every time there is a new administration. A strong party system will also spare us from emotional and often violent popular demonstrations that quite often lead to a military takeover.

Fifth, a parliamentary system will make it easier to harness the best minds for governance. Instead of electing popular candidates who are better suited for the movies, sports or a military career, let us harness the best minds from the broadest base of our population. More qualified candidates for public office will be attracted to run in a parliamentary system as it is less expensive and very competitive. Opportunists and crooks, fearful of the swift retribution for official wrongdoing, will think twice before launching their candidacy.

Sixth, elections in a parliamentary system will be less divisive. Instead of having frequent, divisive and expensive elections for president, vice president, senators, congressmen, local officials and officials of the barangay, Sangguniang Kabataan and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, there will be elections only for the members of parliament and local, ARMM and SK officials. All these elections can be held at the same time. With fewer elections, the private sector will be spared from frequent solicitations for political contributions and can then put its resources into more beneficial and productive endeavors. Elective public officials will also devote more of their time to doing their duties instead of amassing wealth and preparing for reelection.

Seventh, the parliamentary system is preferred by most nations of the world. How can over 114 countries which adopted it be wrong? We are about the only country in Asia that has tenaciously held on to the presidential system.

A composition exercise we had at the Ateneo High School many decades ago asked us what we would want our country to have before we died. Now at the age of 67, my humble and belated response is the adoption of the parliamentary system of government for our country.

But then, this is only one man's dream. Any change in the form of government will not come from those who profit by the presidential system. Dreamers and thinkers are needed to do it. I wonder if others share the dream.

Fructuoso Suzara is a lawyer who is now residing abroad.

The night the carolers came

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THEY looked so heartbreakingly young and innocent in their plaid skirts and plain *kimona* blouses, not unlike members of a school or church choir. And indeed they were, for the most part, young. Or at least young in years.

But in terms of human experience, you could say the young carolers at our home that evening were old beyond not just their years, but the usual quota of a lifetime's sorrows. For the young women, residents of the Nazareth Growth Home, were all survivors of sex work, of rape and incest, and of life in the cruel streets of the city.

My husband knew the carolers would be coming from Nazareth but was nonetheless still shocked when I told him that many were former prostitutes and victims of trafficking. "I thought they were the daughters of the women!" he exclaimed, unable to believe that young women just about our own teen-age daughter's age could already have been "veterans" of the world's oldest profession. Or that they had, at what should be just the beginning of their lives, already seen and experienced enough tragedy to last many lifetimes.

"See that girl near the center?" pointed out Sr. Soledad Perpinan, whose Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women runs Nazareth and other centers for women. "She used to be a young *'taong grasa,'* wandering the streets of Cubao. You would hardly recognize her now, but when she first came to us, she was covered with soot and was so grimy."

Yet, it hardly mattered what we knew about the young women that night. Despite the weight of their accumulated sorrows, their voices lofted above the darkness in our patio, lilting to the merry strains of a song that began: *"Kumukutikutitap, bumubusibusilak..."* The song was about the bright lights of a Philippine Christmas, but it could also have been about the courage of young women starting anew and finding their own way to the light.

* * *

THE THIRD World Movement against the Exploitation of Women was founded in the 1980s initially as an advocacy group against sex tourism and sexual exploitation in the country. By the 1990s, it had gone into providing direct services for women caught up in sex work. Through a network of Bethlehem Drop-in Centers, more popularly known as "Belens," the movement reaches out to women in the sex industry, providing a place for temporary shelter, counseling and fellowship. The *belens* also offer short-term livelihood courses for women seeking an alternate occupation.

Women who decide to leave the work, as well as survivors of rape, incest or molestation who can no longer return to their families are referred to the Nazareth Growth Home in Project 4, Quezon City. Here, they live together and undergo schooling and counseling. Women who have found work but need to adjust to an independent life move on to the Bethany Home, a kind of "halfway home."

Joining the carolers were four young children, who had joined their mothers when they moved out of the world of clubs and brothels into Nazareth. One boy I have kept track of through the years the group has sung in our home. The child of a woman living with HIV, he is himself HIV-positive, but is so full of spunk and, according to Sister Sol, is such a smart boy one can't help being optimistic about his future. That night, he was on the verge of nodding off, but fought his tears and drowsiness as he held aloft a small *parol* to accompany their song.

* * *

I TOLD Sister Sol to come that evening as I was throwing a dinner party for my brother-in-law Willy Cruz, who was leaving for the United States after a World Bank mission that sadly coincided with the wake and funeral of his brother. "This evening would be good as I can pass the hat around among my siblings," I assured her.

But it seems the evening had other dividends, too. "Thank you for the dinner," Willy told me in a call he made just before leaving for the airport. "I was also deeply touched by the singing of the girls."

And so was I, Willy. Watching them shuffling and swaying and lifting their voices in celebration of the season, I had to wonder at the fickleness of fate. My daughter, who is 15, was in the audience along with her girl-cousins. I had to wonder at the vast gulf that separated their existence and concerns from those of the young singers. But I am sure they all have in common dreams for the future, though I asked myself if my daughter and her cousins ever gave a thought to any obstacles they might encounter along the way. The carolers, on the other hand, must be aware of these many obstacles every time they dare to dream.

* * *

THANK YOU, then, girls, for the gift not just of your songs and carols, but also of your company. Thank you for believing in yourselves, and for daring to grab at a chance to change your lives and start anew.

Thank you for reminding me why it is, day in and day out, I search for stories to tell, especially of women whose voices and lives would otherwise not be heard and told, even if these have many lessons to offer everyone.

It's a cliché, this admonition to count your blessings, especially in this season when we're more inclined to counting our annual bonuses and the pile of gifts that come our way. But count my blessings I did the night the carolers came, shamed by the realization that I had been so busy adding up my earthly resources I had forgotten to give thanks for the things and people—and there are so many of them—I already hold in my hand and heart.

This time last year

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AT ABOUT this time last year, Filipinos delayed their Christmas parties so they could watch television. On the last day before the Senate impeachment court went on holiday recess, Clarissa Ocampo came on board as a surprise witness against President Joseph Estrada. Thus began the most politicized Christmas break we ever had in our nation's history.

Family gatherings became instant venues for passionate debate and political analysis. Lawyers became professors, and everyone became an expert on evidence and the fine points of courtroom procedure. By calling on Ocampo to testify on the "Jose Velarde" account, the prosecution cleverly fired a heat-seeking missile that found its way into the living room of every Filipino home. The trial, as it turned out, was suspended only in the Senate; everywhere else, it continued with dramatic intensity.

The Estrada forces began to worry. They controlled the votes in the Senate, but not the sentiments of a public that was finding out for itself how presidents steal and lie. Erap's lawyers were certain that their client would eventually be acquitted. They had the numbers, but now the political fallout from the entire exercise seriously bothered them. It dawned on them that the whole trial could be overtaken by events. Having dropped its bombs, the prosecution could walk out anytime, and leave an enraged public to deal with the wreckage of a severely discredited regime.

Both the defense and the prosecution were aware of the dual character of presidential impeachment: That the trial was as much about legality as it was about legitimacy. That the case could be won or lost on evidence as well as on rhetoric. That there were two juries hearing the case at the same time—the senator-judges and the general public. In such a situation, you could score legal points and lose political capital, or win political points while sacrificing legal advantage.

Knowing they had the votes, the defense lawyers played the game as if it was a purely judicial exercise. They questioned every statement and every piece of evidence, and demanded technical fidelity to procedure, to the horror of an impatient public. On the other hand, the prosecution knew they would not be able to muster enough votes among the senators to secure a conviction, and so they were not as mindful about legal correctness. All they wanted was a chance to present as much derogatory evidence and as many devastating witnesses as they would be allowed to produce. They knew that in the final analysis, the success of their effort was going to be measured not by what the senator-judges thought but by what an informed public would do in the light of its own appreciation of what was happening.

The Erap camp read the situation very badly. They were too focused on the legal arguments and the legal weapons at their disposal to notice and to worry about the dramatic erosion in public trust that was threatening the presidency. They had legal luminaries but, surprisingly, not political strategists. In contrast, the prosecution team was, from day one, focused on political objectives. Their goal was not so much to convict Estrada as to bury him politically.

One of the reasons for this tragic miscalculation by the Erap forces, I believe, is the smugness that tends to afflict people in power. Having been voted with one of the largest electoral majorities in our history, Erap mistook this to be a mandate from heaven itself. He began to think of the presidency as destiny and of himself as another Bonifacio or a Magsaysay who would lift the masses from destitution and despair. The result of this was arrogance, the tendency to consider power as a gift from God rather than a covenant with the people.

This is the reason I get distressed when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo begins to think of the presidency as destiny. It is not. The presidency is contingency. It reflects the shifting aspirations of a community that is constantly being shaped by the forces of time and circumstance even as it attempts to control its own future. It behooves a president to read the historic opportunity being presented to him or her by virtue of the position. The presidency is an assignment to do something crucial to the survival of the nation at a particular point in its life.

Ms Macapagal would not be president today if Edsa II had not happened. And there would not have been an Edsa II if the prosecution had not been given a reason to walk out. The trial would have proceeded to its logical conclusion, and the Senate would have voted to acquit Erap. The public would have felt swindled by such a decision and there would have been outrage. But that outrage would have found a suitable channel in the May elections, and Erap would have remained president.

At around this time last year, Filipinos contemplated the fate of their nation under a president they did not deserve. Erap had become the country's biggest liability in a world that had become harshly competitive. Yet fearing the effects of prolonged instability upon the nation's institutions, they were prepared to let him finish his term. Ms Macapagal did not loom as an alternative.

In this season of humility, it may be useful for GMA to recall that she became president not because she was elected but because the incumbent president had been ousted. This is a disruption, not continuity. Implicit in it is a duty to set things right, to create a new morality in government, to begin a new phase in our national life.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Ghosts of Christmas past still haunting Romanians

FEATURE

Daniel Simpson

TARGOVISTE, Romania—Christmas has never been quite the same for Dorin Carlan and Octavian Gheorghiu since they executed Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife on Dec. 25, 1989.

But flashbacks to the day they pumped bullets into Romania's first couple disturb them less than bitterness about their own fate. They brought Eastern Europe's bloodiest revolution to its climax, yet feel betrayed by the men they helped seize power. "The whole process was a farce," said Carlan, 38, and now retired from the elite paratroop regiment selected for the task.

Many Romanians agree. The belief that second-tier communists hijacked a popular revolt, or even engineered it, is widespread, particularly since the man who emerged as president, Ion Iliescu, has run the country for all but four years ever since.

The haste with which the Ceausescus were put to death by the cabal that took over only fuels popular suspicions further. "Our commander summoned us at 8 a.m. on Christmas Day," remembers Gheorghiu, 37, who now has a defense ministry desk job. "He wanted eight volunteers for a vital mission, with a 90 percent chance we wouldn't return. We stepped forward."

Within a couple of hours, the eight were in two helicopters, hugging the ground to dodge radar as they flew to Targoviste, an ugly steel town Ceausescu had planned to make his new capital.

They had no idea that the man who had tyrannized Romania for 24 years was now locked up with his wife Elena in a poky office at the rust-colored army barracks where they landed.

The troops stationed in Targoviste, 80 km north of Bucharest, were clearly not expecting a firing squad. "We were all trying to work out what was going on," Carlan said on his first return visit to the execution site.

Kangaroo court

The Ceausescus had been captured just three days earlier, after attempting to flee Bucharest in a helicopter while swarms of protesters tried to storm the Communist Party headquarters. According to Victor Stanculescu, a general who held senior posts in the first post-communist government, the couple's fate was decided in a defense ministry toilet early on Christmas Day. "It was the only safe place to talk," Stanculescu said.

Hours later he was standing in the snow in Targoviste to hand pick the executioners, while inside the barracks a few plastic wood veneer tables were being assembled in preparation for a show trial that was later broadcast to the nation.

"Stanculescu singled three of us out and took us to one side," Gheorghiu told Reuters. "The Ceausescus were inside, he told us, and they were about to be condemned to death."

After learning the nature of their mission, all three men—Gheorghiu, Carlan and their colleague Ionel Boeru—were terrified. Not so much by the task, but by what might follow. "We didn't trust anyone," Gheorghiu said. "We thought we'd be killed as soon as the job was done."

They waited in a corridor while prosecutor Gica Popa, who died mysteriously a few months later, accused the Ceausescus of genocide and bleeding Romania dry. The lawyer appointed to defend them, who was shunned by his "clients," joined in too.

"The trial was just as Stalinist as the way Ceausescu ran the country," Carlan said. It was over in less than an hour.

Crumpled corpses

Video footage of the proceedings, parts of it deemed too shocking for a television airing, shows the Ceausescus spitting defiance throughout, right up until the moment their wrists were bound with lengths of old rope as they were dragged outside.

"They thought we were complete nobodies," Gheorghiu said. "I hated them both with such a passion I couldn't control myself."

Nicolae, 71, walked from the courtroom singing snatches from the "Internationale," a socialist anthem, and proclaiming history would judge him well. His wife, the more feared of the two, was less resigned, screaming at everyone to go to hell.

Seconds later they were crumpled corpses beside a muddy wall: Nicolae buckled backwards on his knees staring at the sky and Elena slumped sideways in a pool of her own blood.

"They said they wanted to die together, so we lined them up, took six paces back and simply opened fire. No one ordered us to start, we were just told to get it over with," Gheorghiu said.

"I put seven bullets into him and then emptied the rest of my magazine into her head," Carlan said. "Bits of her brain were spattered here on the floor," he added, surveying the cracked cement beneath a wall still pockmarked with bullet holes. "Then people from all directions started shooting. I was scared but I had this huge sense of relief. I could feel the hopes of 23 million people pumping through my veins."

But euphoria soon gave way to distress and later anger—much of it directed at Ion Iliescu, the leader of the anti-Ceausescu faction which surfaced in December 1989.

"We made it possible for him to take power and he hasn't even bothered to thank us, let alone reward us," Gheorghiu said. "The worst thing is I even believed in his programs and look at the results. Romania is worse off and so are we."

Bitter legacy

Gheorghiu and Carlan are not alone in struggling to come to terms with the events of 1989. No one has been officially declared responsible for over 1,000 deaths in the revolution and living standards have slumped for all but a handful of new rich.

"How am I supposed to live on an army pension of 500,000 lei ($16) a month?" asked Carlan. "I have three kids to support."

Although rich in natural resources, Romania has not yet recovered from Ceausescu's warped brand of economics, especially his 1980s decision to pay off all foreign debts by strangling domestic consumption and exporting as much as possible.

Equally enduring is the psychological and social fallout from surveillance by his Securitate secret police, which enlisted one in seven Romanians as informers, and intrusive policies such as severe family planning restrictions.

"We didn't win the battle in 1989 like everyone else. We barely got started", said Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, a leading academic. "The invasion of privacy in Romania cannot be compared with any other communist country except perhaps North Korea."

Frustration with the slow pace of economic and political reform has led a tiny minority to yearn for Ceausescu-era certainties. Headstones were erected at the couple's unmarked graves a few years ago and supporters light candles there daily.

Most Romanians are more resigned to their fate, despite resentment that democracy has not yet delivered prosperity. The national mood is well evoked by the popular expression *"Asta e* (That's the way it is)," a sort of melancholic *"C'est la vie."*

But Ceausescu's executioners find it harder than most to deal with the sense of having been cheated by the revolution. "We'll dream about this forever," Gheorghiu said. "But does Iliescu think about it now that he has what he wanted? I doubt it."

Reuters

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST:

What do we want more of ?

A CHANGE of pace, in keeping with the reflective mood of the holidays. The following articles may still have policy implications, but they are personal reflections first and foremost. Instead of generic best wishes—peace on earth, for instance, and a better life for all—our contributors raise specific concerns. But they do share one thing in common.

More mediators, more volunteers

BY DANILO R. CRUZ

MEDIATION is one emotionally draining experience.

"One April day, Cleto, a neighborhood toughie-turned-barangay captain, chanced upon two teenage groups locked in a street-gang rumble while patrolling the streets. Cleto tried to pacify the parties and end the fight. The two groups were about to disperse when, without any warning, the barangay captain kicked and slapped 14-year-old Juanito, one of the gang leaders. Young Juanito took the blows calmly and then went home. He felt as though his father—who used to beat him up and now was long gone—had resurrected. That night, he was brought to the hospital but was discharged right away. When the case was brought for mediation by the fiscal on Sept. 3, Aling Paciang, Juanito's mother, tearfully and angrily reconstructed what happened that day in April. The offender Cleto was wearing an immaculate white shirt…"

On my first day as mediator, I felt like some high and mighty judge, pondering on the fates of these parties. Walter Mitty's vivid imagination of fierce dogfights with the Red Baron paled in comparison with what I felt. But I quickly checked myself. "Mediation is quite different," I told myself. "You are not a judge but rather a mere facilitator helping both parties come to a win-win situation."

How did I come to sit at this table?

Having discovered that volunteerism will give more meaning to my life, will help me become "a man for others," I realized a window of opportunity for helping others was opening for me when I heard of the mediation scholarship. I enlisted for the grueling three-day seminar on the techniques and principles of mediation; there were, I remember, lots of fishbowl exercises.

DOJ spearheaded the pilot program to test mediation as a mode of alternative dispute resolution and part of the scholarship program was to handle actual cases filed at the fiscal's office once a week, during our apprenticeship days from Sept. 3 to Oct. 26.

The program, as spelled out in the Aug. 27, 2001 Memorandum Circular No. 23 of the Department of Justice, was "meant to be an expeditious and efficient administration of justice…considering that the test implementation conducted by the (Supreme Court) has proven that mediation, as a mode of alternative dispute resolution, is effective in providing litigants a speedy, impartial and inexpensive way of obtaining justice and disposition of their cases."

Truly, justice delayed is justice denied.

On the first day of the seminar I was overwhelmed by the task ahead. What if I commit a mistake and the parties instead of amicably settling their differences clawed at each other's throats? The introduction in the Basic Mediation Course handout was an unwelcome reminder. "Conflict is a tension, a clash, a competition between two or more interests, ideas, opinions, values, styles, preferences, status, resources…." (The course material was based on "When Talk Fails," Version 3, designed and written by Anabelle T. Abaya for the Department of Justice Mediation Project.)

As it turned out, the course was a resounding success.

And I itched for another chance to volunteer once again. Our class was composed of professionals who took the time out to volunteer—one was a doctor, half were practicing lawyers and the rest were mostly managers and supervisors from both the private and public sectors.

"Judge Cruz, *ano po ang dapat naming gawin* (what should we do)?" That plea woke me from my reverie. It was time to consolidate everything that had been said and close the mediation process, for both parties to come to a mutually agreeable solution to their problems. Willy-nilly, both signed a temporary desistance, agreeing not to file a case with the already backlogged courts. The agreement was premised on the following conditions: 1. The barangay captain will promise never to be a "bully" again. 2. The barangay captain will shoulder the medical expenses of Juanito. 3. Finally, the barangay captain will apologize to Juanito and his mother. For one moment I felt like Solomon, the wise king of ancient times.

Both parties shook my hands. "Attorney, *maraming salamat po* (many thanks)." I smiled, ignoring the demotion from "judge" to mere "attorney." I walked both parties to the door; I did not see the need to tell them I was neither lawyer nor judge.

Balik-contributor Cruz, a business consultant, was assisted in this article by wife Michelle, a training manager and also a graduate of the University of the Philippines at Diliman.

PAGE DESIGN BY MARLONE RUBIO/
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

More real music

BY NEIL RAY RAMOS

CALL it rut if you will but there's no denying that the local music industry is currently filled with so much trash, one has to literally plunge into a deep heap of garbage before he would find anything that would resemble "real" music.

True, one might argue that music is primarily a matter of taste; to actually call one song bad and another song good is unfair at best. But that is only half the point. Good or bad, the question is: in the collective, when will our homegrown music really start growing up?

Do we have to be stuck with the same "product" that had been and still is being done to death, over and over again? We need not name these artists and record companies who gamely release these "products." Just turn on the radio or TV and you'd know what I mean.

While more Original Pilipino Music is getting airtime now, as compared to previous decades when American Top 40 songs largely dominated, these tunes sound "formulaic" at best. There are the novelty songs, and then the jukebox songs, and then the dirty double-meaning songs. The list goes on. Put the blame on the listening masses, they say. Well, we can accuse each other till kingdom come but the bottom line cannot be denied: money.

But is that all there is to it? In a country that's supposedly filled to the brim with "world-class" musicians, in an industry that supposedly celebrates music as art (what with our various award-giving bodies), it is sad to say that greed comes before creativity.

Let's face the facts: Making music is not unlike any venture; one needs capital to get the ball rolling. It must be noted that a single album alone cost thousands to make, advertising and promotions not included. Making an album is a privilege allowed only to a select, moneyed few.

It is for this reason that a musician has to actually convince and sometimes beg a record company to bankroll a recording. That in itself singularly degrades music as art. Imagine Malang or Ang Kiukok doing the same for their art pieces! As all of our record companies are run by rich businessmen whose artistic notions recognize only music that sounds like jingling pennies, the reality of actually asking these people to render your "artwork" available to the public is almost akin to hanging yourself! And we are not even talking about the atrocious contracts that these record companies make musicians sign! And the musicians do, if only because the record company's "approval" is a seal that goes a long way.

If the producers won't listen, then neither would radio stations and MTV outlets. The risk of alienating their advertisers by playing anything that is not "common," "commercial" or "pop" would be too much.

So what do starving musicians do, given these circumstances? They literally compromise their art, and make do with the prevailing trend, believing they would be allowed to "reinvent" themselves later in their career. But therein lies the big misconception: no record company would allow such a change to occur, especially if the current "product" is already making money. And so you build and you wilt and you die. The cycle goes on.

I perfectly understand that businessmen need to keep the cash flowing, but isn't this mindset only one side of the proverbial coin? Though clearly music is one big money-making machine, it is at its most basic an art form, which carries a big responsibility. A responsibility that we are accountable for to future generations.

Imagine this: What if Beethoven never did compose anything new, opting instead to play what was then thought the norm? Or what if everyone listened to the A & R person who thought guitar bands were on their way out and nobody signed the Beatles?

Ramos is a songwriter.

More time for books

BY WILLARD U. CHENG

THE PHILIPPINES boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the region. But the high rating seems to be just that, a number. Although many can read and write, the Filipino people do not exactly constitute a reading population.

In this electronic age where information can be seen—and heard—in various forms of media, reading depends on how one defines it. A non-reading population here, therefore, does not refer to those who do not read messages that are retrievable from cellular phones. It does not also mean reading the newspaper in passing.

The lack of reading pertains to that good old activity of opening a book, enjoying its pages, reflecting on it critically, and applying its value to something else.

On the surface level, this process may look simple and linear. But various interlinked factors form restraints: bad economy, bad politics and bad entertainment culture.

The country itself does not lack for outstanding and prolific writers. A quick survey of the bookstore shelves would bring us to the fiction of F. Sionil Jose, NVM Gonzalez, Bienvenido Santos, Charlson Ong and Genoveva Matute, among others. There is also a host of nonfiction anthologies like those of Jessica Zafra, Ambeth Ocampo and the Youngblood books. Almost overriding these are the imported works of the likes of John Grisham and Tom Clancy.

But high production costs simply deprives the Filipino of a wide selection. And instead of spending on pricey and lavishly bound books, the minimum-wage earner might as well spend on food and clothes for his family.

If the government can lobby for oil-price rollbacks, why can't it try to ease the inflated cost of books? Lawmakers might want to look at ways to support local publishers and importers. Better yet, the government through its public schools might want to start reaching out to the grassroots and educate students on the value of reading.

The entertainment culture that persists in Filipino society also seemed to have stunted the growth of a reading habit. Recent television trends speak of this. Many Filipinos would prefer bits of information from trivia quiz shows where learning requires the least effort and least concentration.

The Harry Potter books may have allowed many to rediscover—or indeed discover for the first time—the joy of reading. But one hopes the phenomenon is not due to the use of magic as a theme. Or because it is simply entertaining. Or because it is in English. One hopes that, in the long run, the craze will allow many to realize that many Filipinos still cannot afford to buy a P600 hardbound book.

Skeptics may doubt the importance of books especially in these trying times. But when will we start giving books a space in our busy schedule?

Cheng is Inquiry Editor of The Guidon, *the college newspaper of the Ateneo de Manila University.*

Talking points

THE PIECE by Mr. Cruz is nothing more than a narration of his experience as a new quasi-legal mediator, and yet it resonates with an unarticulated appeal for more volunteerism in public life. He uses narrative to make a point: not so much that participating in the dispute resolution process known as mediation was "one emotionally draining experience," but that "helping others" is not only an act of self-realization but also an exercise in citizenship.

The main technique he uses is the familiar flashback. In print as in the movies, a flashback allows the author or director to do at least three things at the same time: to bring the context or what the film industry calls the back story up to date, to create suspense, and to move the action forward. In other words, when the interrupted action resumes, it can do so with heightened audience interest and several steps ahead in the sequence of events.

It is worth noting that Cruz mentions Walter Mitty, the famous James Thurber short story character whose "vivid" imaginative life contrasts starkly with his actual humdrum existence. That story also interrupts the narration, not by sneaking a look into the past but by jumping into the details of yet another Walter Mitty daydream. The two techniques have different purposes, but they share this quality: they interrupt a narrative only to jumpstart it.

Mr. Ramos' lament for the fate of manufactured music is instructively wrong—in the sense that an artist too close to his art may not prove to be the best critic of his work, but produces self-criticism that is revelatory just the same. (I am happy to say that, like much else, this particular notion is not new or even original to me; I first came across it in the essays of Frank Kermode.) Ramos is wrong in saying commerce is the enemy of art in absolute terms; much of the art we call great (Beethoven's, in his example, or Michaelangelo, to offer my own) was produced for patrons, and hence were indubitably commercial (or meant to please a given market). But the lament is driven by the personal experience of many "starving musicians" who "compromised" their standards, ending up with unoriginal or "formulaic" music. It shows us that the tension between personal expression and market need remains constant, and is the source of much that is creative.

Mr. Cheng makes an intriguing point, in the era of the cellphone: "In this electronic age where information can be seen—and heard—in various forms of media, reading depends on how one defines it." In the end, however, reading remains a solitary act. Except for a few exceptions, reading is like swimming: no one can do it for you. This point suggests, to me at least, that the three articles have, at core, one thing in common: the dignity of the individual, which must be harnessed in voluntary work, respected in music, written up in books. It is a notion that knows no season.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US develops new bomb for use vs Afghan caves

WASHINGTON—The US military will begin using a new bomb in Afghanistan designed to send a suffocating blast through a cave complex without sealing the entrance with debris.

Military researchers rushed the new "thermobaric" bomb to completion after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and it was tested in Nevada on Dec. 14, said Air Force spokesperson Capt. Joe Della Vedova.

The military was developing the weapon to use against bunkers and other buildings.

"It's something that we clearly have a need for in Afghanistan, and they're on their way over there," Pentagon official Pete Aldridge told reporters Friday.

The bomb creates a cloud of explosive particles that blow up with a force stronger and longer-lasting than one created by conventional explosives.

Thermobaric weapons work on the same principle that causes blasts in grain elevators and other dusty places; clouds of fine particles are highly explosive. Such explosions produce shock waves that can be directed and amplified in enclosed spaces such as buildings, caves or tunnels.

While the shock wave is powerful, and the explosion's heat is intense, it does not collapse a cave or tunnel, but rather reverberates throughout an entire tunnel complex.

"The big advantage of it is it would enable you to destroy what is in the tunnel without collapsing the tunnel mouth," said military analyst John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org. "In other words, you could kill people in tunnels and also be able to figure out who you've killed."

That could prove to be a big advantage in the fight against the Taliban and al-Qaida, since military officials are eager to determine which leaders of the Islamic militia and terrorist network have been killed by US air strikes. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said this week that Osama bin Laden could be buried in the rubble of a bombed tunnel, for example.

The Pentagon plans to send hundreds of Marines to the former al-Qaida stronghold in the Tora Bora area to help search caves and possibly dig into tunnels that were collapsed by bombs.

The United States had a similar kind of weapon, called a fuel-air explosive, during the Vietnam War. That weapon detonated a mist of liquid fuel, rather than the cloud of solid explosives used in the new version.

The old fuel-air explosives could create explosions of different sizes, depending on the size of the droplets produced, wind speed and other factors, Pike said.

"One of the reasons they didn't like the old ones was you couldn't predict how big of a bang you were going to get," Pike said. "I gather that the idea behind these new ones is that the size of the bang is more predictable."

Della Vedova, the Air Force spokesperson, would not say how many thermobaric bombs the United States has or how much each would cost. The weapon, called the BLU-118b, can be used in several configurations, he said.

The bombs are dropped from warplanes and guided to their targets by lasers or satellite positioning systems. They're designed to explode inside or just outside a cave or tunnel, sending the shock wave inside. *AP*

US anti-terror laws snare ex-hotel exec

LONDON—A former catering manager at major London hotels is among eight foreigners detained under new British anti-terrorism laws, the press reported here Saturday.

Djamel Ajouaou, a Moroccan in his forties and who has a British wife, was refused bail Friday in the first appeal hearing against the detentions.

The anti-terrorist legislation, which became law on Dec. 14, permits British authorities to hold foreign suspects without trial if they are believed to present a threat to national security.

The eight, arrested on Wednesday, were the first to be seized under the laws.

According to reports in The Times and The Daily Telegraph, Ajouaou is a community worker but had been employed in the past as a catering manager at a number of London hotels including the Waldorf and the Hilton Olympia.

In opposing bail, Ian Burnett, counsel for the British Home Secretary David Blunkett, told the court that Ajouaou was "a continuing threat to national security" and was suspected of being "an active supporter of various terrorist groups including those directly engaged in terrorism and those with links to Osama bin Laden." *AFP*

Musharraf slams India for acting arrogantly

XI'AN, China—Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Saturday accused India of acting rashly and arrogantly but said he would not retaliate after New Delhi announced the recall of its ambassador from Pakistan.

"We regret the very arrogant and knee-jerk response of the Indian government," Musharraf said after praying at one of China's largest mosques, in the central city of Xi'an.

India said Friday it was recalling its ambassador and terminating rail and bus links with Pakistan following a Dec. 13 suicide attack on the Indian parliament. New Delhi blamed Islamabad. Musharraf's government denied responsibility and condemned the attack.

Musharraf replied "No" when reporters asked if Pakistan would retaliate. He did not answer further questions.

Pakistan and India, nuclear-armed neighbors who have fought three wars since 1947, placed their armies on alert and sent troop and weapons reinforcements to their borders after the attack that killed 14 people, including five alleged terrorists.

On Friday, US President George W. Bush urged Musharraf to act against one of two Islamic militant organizations accused by India of carrying out the attack. Bush added the group, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, to a US list of organizations accused of sponsoring terrorism.

Musharraf did not comment Saturday on Bush's appeal. But after praying at the Great Mosque in the Muslim quarter of Xi'an, the Pakistani leader said: "Islam is a religion of peace and we don't believe in any violence."

"You are a hero of world peace, and you are hero to the friendship between China and Pakistan," the mosque's imam, Haji Mohammad You Nusi Maliangji, said to Musharraf.

"I'm honored," Musharraf replied.

The mosque tour came after Musharraf promised Friday to "wholeheartedly support" Chinese leaders' efforts to crush Muslim separatists in China's western region of Xinjiang, state media said.

China is eager to make its fight against the separatists part of the American-led anti-terror campaign, although Washington has rejected that link. Beijing says hundreds of guerrillas from Xinjiang's Uighur Muslim ethnic group have trained in Afghanistan.

China has blamed the separatists for sporadic bombings and killings in Xinjiang. Last weekend, a McDonald's restaurant in Xi'an, 900 km southwest of Beijing in the central province of Shaanxi, also was attacked by a bomb that killed two people and injured 27. Officials say they have no evidence that separatists were involved. *AP*

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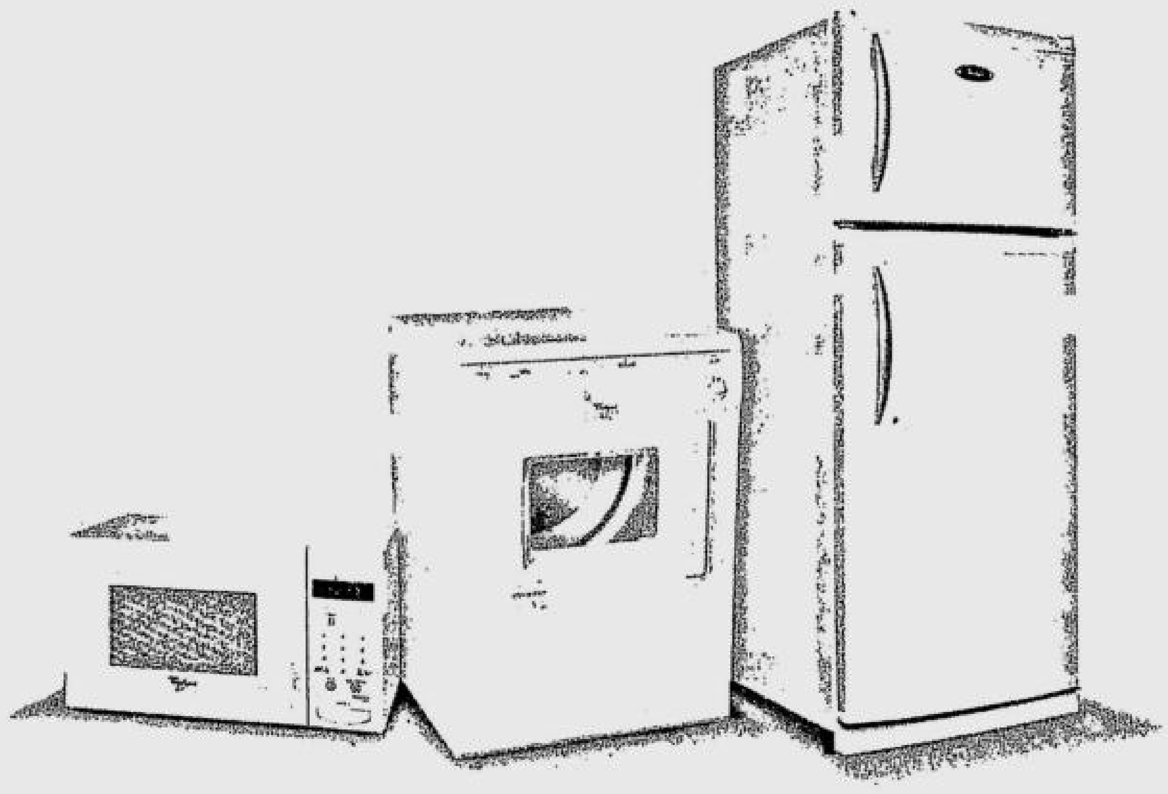

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Peronists regain Argentine presidency

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina's Peronist party reasserted its role as the dominant political force, preparing to name one of its veterans Saturday to guide a country mired in an economic crisis that brought down the president.

A day after Congress accepted the resignation of President Fernando de la Rua, forced out by violent protests, the Peronists returned to center stage at a crucial moment after two years in the opposition. De la Rua was elected in 1999, ending Peronist leader Carlos Menem's decade in power.

Congress designated Senate leader Ramon Puerta interim president on Friday, but the Peronist Party, which controls the legislature, said it would name provincial governor Adolfo Rodriguez Saa on Saturday night to take his place.

Rodriguez Saa, a 54-year-old lawyer who has governed San Luis province for 18 years, is expected to serve until new elections that the Peronists hope to hold March 3 to serve the last two years of de la Rua's term.

Rodriguez Saa told television network Todos Noticias he would release a plan Saturday to ease the economic crisis. "I will work with all my might on behalf of my country, I am going to work hard and with honesty," he said.

But Argentines worn out by joblessness, rising poverty, pay cuts and tax hikes are deeply skeptical of the ability of the Peronist caretaker leadership—or politicians of any party—to get the job done.

"There has to be some kind of solution, some kind of change. But it's hard to see what that should be," said Nestor Rodriguez, an office clerk lining up at a bank to pay his taxes. "We all face a very uncertain future."

De la Rua, whose failed austerity plans inspired deep popular anger, resigned Thursday after two days of protests, riots and looting that left 26 people dead.

Leaving halfway through his four-year term, de la Rua complained that the Peronists disregarded his call to join him in a government of national unity—his last-ditch effort to remain in office after the declaration of a state of emergency failed to quell the rioting.

His fall left the reins of power—at least for now—in the hands of the Peronists, many of whom oppose the strict financial policies advocated by de la Rua's last economy minister, Domingo Cavallo.

The new leader will face staggering financial troubles as the economy shows no sign of pulling out of a four-year recession that has produced 18 percent unemployment and $132 billion in public debt, with default a strong possibility.

While trying to keep international creditors at bay, he also will need to balance the needs of millions of jobless workers against the need to keep tight controls on spending.

In the past, Rodriguez Saa has suggested Argentina should give first priority to its people over paying the debt. In comments Friday, however, he sought to strike a reassuring note with the global finance community. *AP*

FOTOGRAFIAS

DIFFERENT FACES OF SANTA

REUTERS/AP

A young Indonesian boy (left photo) cries for his mother while he sits for a photo with Santa Claus in a Jakarta shopping mall while another Santa Claus shows his empty pockets in Buenos Aires. A $130-billion debt crisis and four years of recession have left Argentina teetering on the edge of financial collapse and close to defaulting on its crushing debt burden.

Calm returns to Buenos Aires after bloody riots

BUENOS AIRES—Squatting next to anti-riot barricades in the Plaza de Mayo, Javier Colombo was still banging a big plastic tub—even though the president he wanted out of power had already resigned.

"I guess it's a bit strange to protest when a government's just resigned," he said Friday, a day after President Fernando De la Rua stepped down amid riots and looting.

So why was Colombo still protesting?

"I don't really believe in anyone or anything any more, most people feel that way."

Much of the violent unrest that shook Argentina for two days had died down by Friday; in the Plaza—the scene of demonstrations that ousted De la Rua 24 hours earlier—just a handful of youths gathered.

But skepticism about the leadership of this country was still rife among Argentines, worn-out by four years of recession, and dozens more years of corrupt government.

"There has to be some kind of solution, some kind of change. But it's hard to see what that should be," said Nestor Rodriguez, an office clerk lining up at a bank to pay his taxes. "We all face a very uncertain future."

Still, after two days of violent protests left 26 dead and hundreds of injured, most Argentines could at least celebrate the return of a measure of calm.

In the Plaza de Mayo on Friday, photo-snapping tourists, elderly gentlemen browsing through newspapers and children bathing in the fountains had replaced angry protesters and mounted police who turned the square into a combat zone Thursday.

In the main avenues of downtown Buenos Aires, where police had fired tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets at protesters on Thursday and looters later ransacked shops and businesses, a huge cleanup was under way, with windows being boarded up, debris being cleared away, and disabled public telephones being repaired.

Under the shadow of a gently fluttering Argentine flag—flying at half staff in the Plaza on Friday for the 26 who died—a small group of people stood around engaged in a fiery debate about this week's events.

"Everything is very unclear right now, but at least people are talking, analyzing it all and exchanging ideas—even if no one agrees," said Hugo Rocha, a 28-year-old teacher. *AP*

Ex-dictator Suharto remains in hospital

JAKARTA—Indonesia's ex-dictator Suharto remained hospitalized Saturday for the sixth day but has recovered from his bout of pneumonia, his doctor said.

Dr. Koenindro Dadi, who heads a team of 33 doctors at Pertamina Hospital, said Suharto, 80, had come out of the critical stage.

"He has overcome the critical stage and is now in the rehabilitation phase," he said.

However, doctors have no plans to release Suharto soon, he said.

Hospital spokesperson Tuti Dwipatmayanti earlier said Suharto's five children were keeping a round-the-clock vigil at their father's bedside. Suharto has also suffered intestinal, liver and kidney problems and breathing difficulties.

However, his youngest son, Tommy Suharto, has been under police custody since late November. He allegedly ordered the murder of a Supreme Court judge who gave him an 18-month jail sentence for graft that was later overturned. Police also accuse him in a string of bombings in Jakarta and of illegal weapons possession. *AP*

Onus for peace now on Israel, says negotiator

JERUSALEM—Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat says a decision by the Islamic militant group Hamas to suspend suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel leaves the next step in the quest for Mideast peace up to Israel.

Erekat said he told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in a telephone conversation Friday that he now expected Israel to stop its preemptive strikes on suspected Palestinian militants and lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages.

"The ball now is in the Israeli court to stop all acts of aggression, to stop the policy of assassinations, to lift the closure and to return to the negotiating table," he said.

The Hamas announcement, seen as boosting chances for a US-brokered truce to take hold, came at a time of renewed internal Palestinian fighting in which six people died in a gunbattle in a Gaza refugee camp.

It followed two days of clashes between Palestinian police—who have been trying to enforce a cease-fire—and supporters of Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group. In all, seven Palestinians have been killed and 94 hurt in internal confrontations since Thursday, doctors said.

Hamas said in a leaflet faxed to news agencies that it ordered attacks in Israel suspended "until further notice" to preserve Palestinian unity. The announcement was seen as a victory for beleaguered Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been under intense US and European pressure to prevent attacks on Israel.

It was the first time Hamas had made such a promise in the 15 months of fighting.

However, the Hamas decision only referred to stopping suicide attacks within Israel's borders, not in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving open the possibility of further violence against Jewish settlers and soldiers there. The ban on mortar fire extended to both Israel and the Palestinian territories, according to the leaflet. *AP*

Bush tells nation to remember those who grieve

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Saturday he would like Americans to pause to "remember all those who feel loss, separation and need" at Christmas following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bush used his weekly radio address to laud Congress for approving education reforms, tax relief and various measures to protect the country from future terrorism, and to bemoan the fact that the Senate did not pass a Republican-crafted economic stimulus plan.

"I'm hopeful that the positive spirit of bipartisan accomplishment that guided much of this year's success will prevail when Congress returns early next year," he said.

But right now, the president said, Americans are more concerned with the "eternal promise of peace on Earth and goodwill to men" that Christmas represents. The holiday takes on a special poignance in light of the terrorist tragedy that claimed thousands of lives last fall, he said.

"This Christmas comes just months after a great national loss," Bush said. "We find ourselves appreciating more than ever the things that matter most—our families, our friends and our faith. We count our blessings, and we remember all those who feel loss, separation and need."

Bush said the entire country shared the grief of those whose loved ones perished in the Pentagon, in the World Trade Center, aboard the four hijacked planes and during military action in Afghanistan. *AP*

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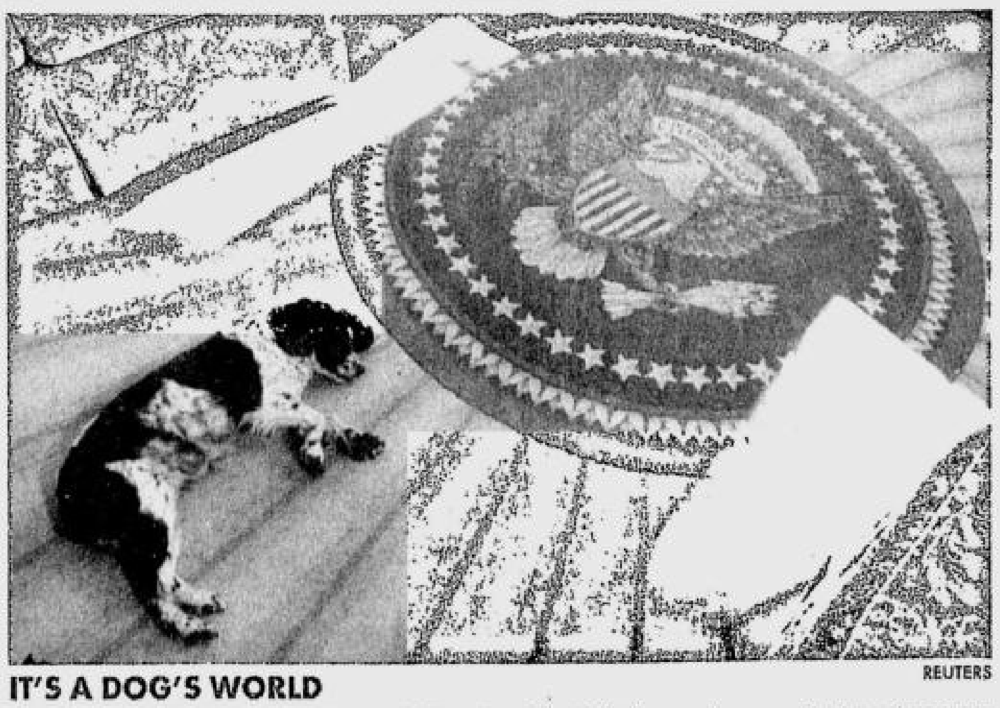

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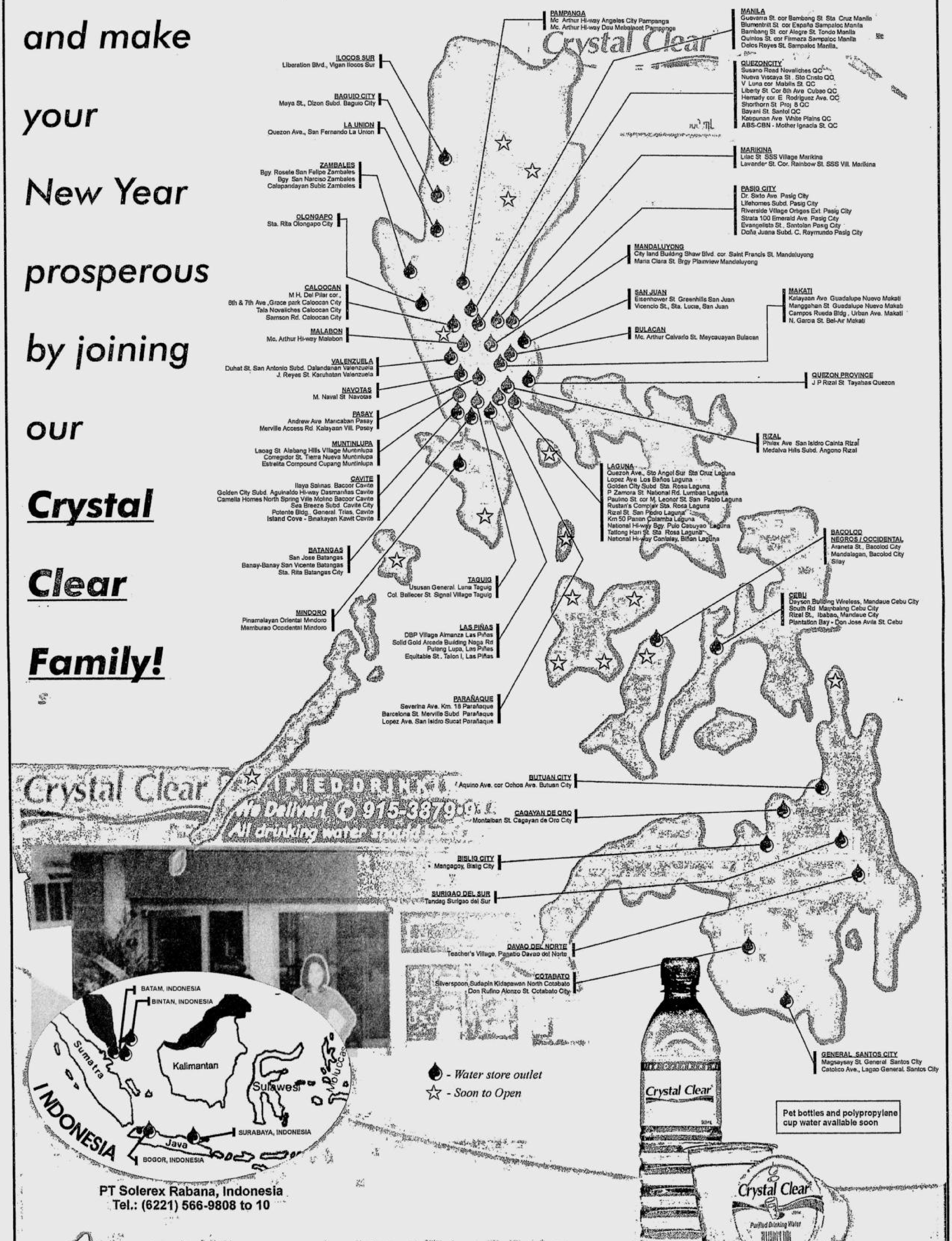

PAMPANGA
Mc Arthur Hi-way Angeles City Pampanga
Mc. Arthur Hi-way Dau Mabalacat Pampanga

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Liberation Blvd., Vigan Ilocos Sur

BAGUIO CITY
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LA UNION
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Bgy San Narciso Zambales
Calapandayan Subic Zambales

OLONGAPO
Sta. Rita Olongapo City

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8th & 7th Ave ,Grace park Caloocan City
Tala Novaliches Caloocan City
Samson Rd. Caloocan City

MALABON
Mc. Arthur Hi-way Malabon

VALENZUELA
Duhat St. San Antonio Subd. Dalandanan Valenzuela
J. Reyes St. Karuhatan Valenzuela

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Estrelita Compound Cupang Muntinlupa

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Golden City Subd. Aguinaldo Hi-way Dasmariñas Cavite
Camella Homes North Spring Ville Molino Bacoor Cavite
Sea Breeze Subd. Cavite City
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Island Cove - Binakayan Kawit Cavite

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Banay-Banay San Vicente Batangas
Sta. Rita Batangas City

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Pinamalayan Oriental Mindoro
Mamburao Occidental Mindoro

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Ususan General Luna Taguig
Col. Ballecer St. Signal Village Taguig

LAS PIÑAS
DBP Village Almanza Las Piñas
Solid Gold Arcade Building Naga Rd
Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas
Equitable St., Talon I, Las Piñas

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Barcelona St. Merville Subd. Parañaque
Lopez Ave. San Isidro Sucat Parañaque

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Blumentritt St. cor España Sampaloc Manila
Bambang St. cor Alegre St. Tondo Manila
Quintos St. cor Firmeza Sampaloc Manila
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Nueva Viscaya St., Sto Cristo QC
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Liberty St Cor 8th Ave Cubao QC
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Shorthorn St Proj 8 QC
Bayani St. Santol QC
Katipunan Ave White Plains QC
ABS-CBN - Mother Ignacia St. QC

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MANDALUYONG
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Maria Clara St. Brgy Plainview Mandaluyong

SAN JUAN
Eisenhower St. Greenhills San Juan
Vicencio St., Sta. Lucia, San Juan

MAKATI
Kalayaan Ave Guadalupe Nuevo Makati
Manggahan St. Guadalupe Nuevo Makati
Campos Rueda Bldg., Urban Ave. Makati
N. Garcia St. Bel-Air Makati

BULACAN
Mc. Arthur Calvario St. Meycauayan Bulacan

QUEZON PROVINCE
J P Rizal St Tayabas Quezon

RIZAL
Philex Ave San Isidro Cainta Rizal
Medalva Hills Subd. Angono Rizal

LAGUNA
Quezon Ave., Sto Angel Sur Sta Cruz Laguna
Lopez Ave Los Baños Laguna
Golden City Subd Sta. Rosa Laguna
P Zamora St. National Rd. Lumban Laguna
Paulino St. cor M. Leonor St. San Pablo Laguna
Rustan's Complex Sta. Rosa Laguna
Rizal St. San Pedro Laguna
Km 50 Parian Calamba Laguna
National Hi-way Bgy. Pulo Cabuyao Laguna
Tatlong Hari St. Sta. Rosa Laguna
National Hi-way Canlalay, Biñan Laguna

BACOLOD NEGROS / OCCIDENTAL
Araneta St., Bacolod City
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Silay

CEBU
Dayson Building Wireless, Mandaue Cebu City
South Rd Mambaling Cebu City
Rizal St., Ibabao, Mandaue City
Plantation Bay - Don Jose Avila St. Cebu

BUTUAN CITY
Aquino Ave. cor Ochoa Ave. Butuan City

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Montalban St. Cagayan de Oro City

BISLIG CITY
Mangagoy, Bislig City

SURIGAO DEL SUR
Tandag Surigao del Sur

DAVAO DEL NORTE
Teacher's Village, Panabo Davao del Norte

COTABATO
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7 dead as boats collide, capsize in waters off Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Jerome Aning

CEBU CITY—Seven persons, including a municipal councilor, were killed while three others were reported missing yesterday morning when the motorboat they were riding in capsized about 50 meters away from a port in San Remegio, 109 kilometers northwest of this city.

The Philippine Coast Guard Cebu Station (PCGCS) identified the fatalities as Bantayan Councilor Baltazar Pastoriza, 72; schoolteacher Carmencita Bartida, 40; businessman Nilo Mercado, 41; Santos Aranquez, 72; Lenny Diongson, 48; Nievas Disquitado, 60; and Susan Paragsa, all residents of Bantayan Island, Cebu.

Seaman First Larry Bathan of the PCGCS said Coast Guard divers were conducting rescue operations for the three passengers who were reported missing. He, however, did not have the names of these passengers.

Ten survivors were brought to a hospital in nearby Bogo town, he said. But hospital records showed 15 passengers were brought there for treatment.

Bathan said that based on their computation, 68 passengers were on board the service boat. Aside from 17 casualties and the three missing, he said 48 passengers had gone home after reporting to the Coast Guard Station in Hagnaya. It was learned that the service boat has a passenger capacity of 65.

The victims were passengers of MV Island Express 5 from Sta. Fe town, Bantayan Island. They were told to board the motorboat, which would bring them to the Hagnaya Port because the vessel could not dock due to the low tide.

Officials of Island Shipping Co., which owns the vessel, said the service boat rammed into the outrigger of a fishing boat named Dondon, about 6:45 a.m. yesterday.

The accident occurred about 50 meters from the Hagnaya Port or 100 meters from where the vessel was anchored.

Zaldy Globa, Island Vessel operation manager, claimed that Sixto Espina, the skipper of the fishing boat, could have been drunk because he failed to see the approaching service boat.

He claimed that the fishing boat had blocked the path of the service boat. Severino Bacunawa, the service boat's skipper, tried to swerve the motorboat to the left to avoid a collision. But Globa said the service boat hit instead the outrigger of the fishing boat.

But some passengers claimed that the service boat was overloaded, a claim strongly denied by shipping officials.

Rosalind Salve, one of the survivors, said the crewmembers of the service boat did not heed their warning not to load too many passengers.

She said the service boat did not hit the fishing boat as claimed by the shipping company officials.

She said the boat capsized after Bacunawa suddenly steered the vessel to the left. She added the boat would not have capsized if it was not overloaded.

Another survivor, Lucy Mata, confirmed that there were too many passengers on board the service boat. She said she and the other passengers were thrown into the sea after the motorboat overturned.

Fishermen later rescued Mata and her husband and daughter.

But Island Shipping officials denied that the service boat was overloaded.

Globa maintained that there were only 48 passengers on board the service boat even if it could carry 65 passengers.

While there were a total of 170 passengers on board Island Express 5, Globa said they had arranged for two service boats to ferry the passengers to the port.

The vessel's management has yet to release the passenger list of the service boat.

Casino plan stirs debate

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The plan to build a casino at the Philippine Christmas Village here has stirred debates among provincial board members.

Revenues from casino operations, the appropriateness of putting up a gambling business at the park and the morality of having one in this city are the contentious issues in the debate that has drawn even the Archdiocese of San Fernando.

The proponents—Board Member Crisostomo Garbo and Ferdinand Labung—appeared determined to see their proposal through.

After withdrawing last Wednesday their "urgent motion for the unanimous approval" of the establishment of the casino, Garbo and Labung asked the board to review the proposal and to subject it to a public hearing.

The board has set the first public hearing on Jan. 7.

Board Member Robert David, the lone opponent of the plan, has called the idea a "desecration" of the theme park, the third of its kind in the world.

David helped the late Gov. Bren Guiao in establishing the Philippine Christmas Village, also known as the Paskuhan Village, in 1990.

Since 1998, the Philippine Tourism Authority has taken over the park's management from the Paskuhan Village Foundation.

"If the City of San Fernando shall grow to be a prosperous and progressive metropolis, it shall be by the honest effort of our people and our leaders in building, expanding and improving the socioeconomic structures of this place. Not through gambling, but through industry, sacrifice and creativity of our people," David told the board last Wednesday.

The board, he added, was "duty-bound" by the local government code to enact ordinances preventing gambling and other illegal games of chance.

Acting ARMM gov won't step down

COTABATO CITY—Acting Gov. Alvares Isnaji of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, who insists he is legally the region's governor, said he will bring his case before the Supreme Court.

Isnaji, whose continued stay in office was extended with the issuance of a temporary restraining order by a local court against Gov. Parouk Hussin, said now that the case has reached the Court of Appeals, he has other options.

"We still have the Supreme Court and I believe we have a strong case," Isnaji said after the appellate court lifted the 20-day TRO issued by RTC Branch 15 here.

The CA set Jan. 15 to hear Hussin's petition for preliminary injunction.

The TRO directed Hussin to desist from assuming the ARMM's top post. It was issued on Dec. 14 and will expire on Jan. 3.

Isnaji said Hussin, elected ARMM governor in the Nov. 26 balloting in the expanded area of autonomy could not assume office because under Republic Act 9054 newly elected officials can only assume on Sept. 30 next year.

"Since Hussin was elected in the Nov. 26 elections, he can only assume in September next year," Isnaji said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA orders smuggled rice given to poor

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Bureau of Customs to donate all confiscated rice shipments to the poor and people living in calamity areas.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said in an interview over radio station dyLA here last Monday that his office is coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to implement the order of the President.

In Cebu alone, the Bureau of Customs seized 70,630 sacks of suspected smuggled rice from Nov. 5 to Dec. 13 this year.

These rice shipments came mostly from Vietnam and were estimated to be worth about P56 million based on the prevailing market value of P800 per sack.

But Villanueva said only the rice that were not sold at auction and were not being claimed would be distributed.

Courts should first resolve all pending cases on the shipment, he added. Only shipments forfeited in favor of the government and were not sold at auction would be given to the poor.

"We will have to follow the law. After forfeiture, we will sell these through public auction. If these are not sold, then we will donate it," he said.

Villanueva said the DSWD should identify the beneficiaries of these bags of rice.

The Cebu City council passed a resolution last week urging the national government to release the confiscated bags of rice in favor of the Cebu City government.

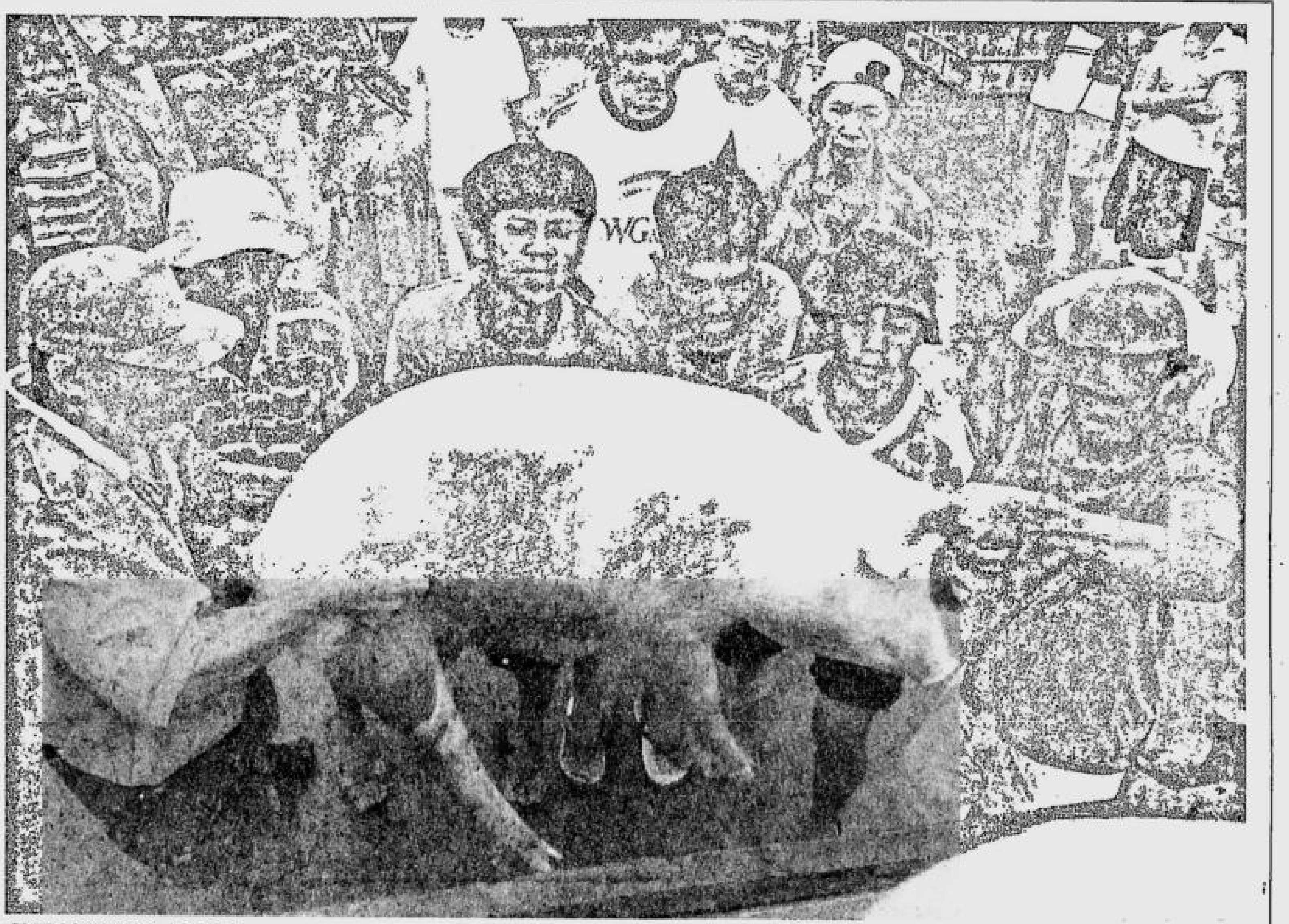
The council wanted to distribute the confiscated rice to poor families in Cebu City.

Villanueva said the council should coordinate with the DSWD. "They have to make representation with the (DSWD)," he said.

Earlier, Presidential Liaison Officer Elberto Emphasis said President Macapagal would sign an executive order to allow the distribution of confiscated rice to the poor.

Emphasis said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and National Food Authority administrator Anthony Abad were drafting the executive order.

He said he believed that the President would sign the order before Christmas.



CHRISTMAS RUSH

DENNIS SABANGAN

Port workers load a pig into a truck as goods and people come rushing in at the Basilan port from Zamboanga City in time for the holidays and despite the ongoing Army offensive against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

NPAs giving out loans, jobs to win sympathy

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—Contrary to the military's claim that communist guerrillas do not spare the poor in its collection of revolutionary taxes, a local government official here said the New People's Army (NPA) is providing jobs and loans to civilians in a bid to win the people's sympathy.

"The revolutionary movement is extending livelihood assistance to many civilians here, successfully convincing the people that the government is not doing anything for their welfare," said Abito Bernasor, provincial director of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"Therefore, we in the government should really take sincere efforts in combating the very successful propaganda of the communist rebels. We should win back the people's hearts," Bernasor added.

The military has confirmed the growing influence of the NPA, particularly on residents of this town. This influence is making it difficult for the military to hunt down the rebels as civilians have become very sympathetic to the NPA.

Last month, at least 18 government soldiers were killed in an ambush in Sitio Spur Dos in Barangay Aliwagwag. The slain soldiers were trying to enter the rebels' lair in hinterland Barangay Aliwagwag.

Bernasor said while he supports the plan of the provincial government to distribute firearms to civilians aimed at flushing out the rebels from their communities, "war against the revolutionary movement cannot be won by arms alone, but also by propaganda."

"The government must show to the people that it is working for their welfare, especially for their economic upliftment so that we can win back the people's trust and sympathy on the government."

Bernasor said based on a report of town mayors, the NPA is distributing farm animals to civilians and granting loans of P10,000 to P20,000.

All these, he said, were aimed at "deceiving" the civilians so they become sympathetic to the revolutionary movement.

Bernasor said the government does not have to necessarily combat the "very successful" propaganda of the rebels by also distributing farm animals to the civilians, "but by at the very least showing good and transparent governance, plus sincere, thoughtful and honest service to the people."

But residents of the so-called rebel-infested barangays of this town denied allegations that they were siding with the rebels. They said they have no choice but to accommodate both government soldiers and guerrillas "so we won't be killed."

A barangay official who asked not to be identified said "it is true (that) the revolutionary movement rules in our community but that doesn't mean we are sympathetic or pro-NPA."

"When the military comes to our village for an anti-insurgency operation, we also welcome them," the village official added.

The military and police in the province were one in accusing the rebels of operating the lucrative business of illegal logging in Boston, Cateel, Baganga and Caraga towns. This allegation was denied by the NPA. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and Mindanao including PAlawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers particularly over the eastern section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo19°
Baguio	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 24° Lo12°
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo19°
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/12/23/01

8 members of 2 families die in Cebu fires

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—It is a bleak Christmas for the loved ones of two families who were killed in separate fires early yesterday in the cities of Mandaue and Danao.

A couple and their three children were burned to death after they were trapped inside their rented room during a fire that hit Basubas Compound, Barangay Tipolo in Mandaue about 5 a.m. yesterday.

At about the same time, another fire broke out in Barangay Tabok Camalig-bato, Danao City, which left a 52-year-old woman, his teenage son and a son-in-law dead.

The fatalities in Mandaue were identified as Fredie Calago, 32, who worked as a driver of Robina Farms in Mandaue; his wife Lorna, 29; daughters Melgin, 8 and Frayme, 2 and son Niel, 9.

The victims, burned beyond recognition, were found embracing each other about 11 a.m. yesterday by a joint team of the Mandaue City Fire Department and the police homicide section.

Evangeline Libaton, a cousin and neighbor of the Calago family, said the victims were trapped inside the room, which was on the second floor of the house owned by Hermosa Sanjorjo.

The house, she said, had no window and was made of light materials.

The fire was believed to have started from a vacant room on the ground floor, located right below the room being rented by the victims. The fire quickly spread to nearby houses.

Fire investigators were looking into the cause of the fire. But Sanjorjo said the fire occurred shortly after a video *karera* machine owned by one of her lodgers exploded.

SFO1 Jose Laurito of the Mandaue City Fire Department said damage to property was pegged at P1 million as the fire destroyed about 300 houses, many of which were made of light materials.

Data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development showed that the fire displaced 276 families who were temporarily housed in public schools in Barangay Tipolo.

Mayor Tadeo Ouano promised to provide assistance to the fire victims.

In Danao, a mother, her teenage son and son-in-law died during a fire that hit their house about 5 a.m. yesterday at Sitio Takan, Barangay Tabok Camalig-bato, Danao.

The victims were identified as Bernadette Camaongay, 52; son Rou, 16 and son-in-law Anthony Ypil, 31.

Ypil was living near Bernadette's house. When the fire broke out, he went inside the burning house to rescue her mother-in-law and Rou who were trapped inside. He never got out.

Bernadette had a heart ailment while Rou was suffering from cerebral palsy. Her husband Vicente, a driver of a rented motorcycle, was working at that time.

Vicente said he believed that the fire was caused by a lighted mosquito coil (*katol*), which was used by his wife. The damage was pegged at P36,000.

INQUIRER*Mindanao*
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

A different Christmas celebration

Tribal folk observe the holidays by keeping watch over their land

BY JOEY R.B. LOZANO
Mati, Davao Oriental

W*alay* Pasko *sa nitibo, pero nagdawat mi sa adlaw sa pagkatao sa Makakagahum* (There's no such thing as Christmas for us natives, but we do recognize the birth of the Almighty)."

A member datu of the supreme council of tribal holy warriors called Alimaong here gave that response when asked what their group intends to do this season.

And as their "Christian brothers" troop to their respective churches for the traditional Misa de Gallo, Datu Manlutos said the holy warriors, armed with spears, bows and arrows and homemade shotguns, launched their own "Christmas vigil."

"*Mas hugot ang pagbantay namo sa amoang teritoryo* (We're guarding our territory more tightly now)," said Datu Manaol, the Alimaong's leader.

The holy warriors, who maintain camps some 24 kilometers from the national highway here, have reasons to do so.

In June, they helped expose illegal logging being committed by a Davao City-based company in their territory.

Worth several millions of pesos, logs were found in log decks ready for hauling.

The revelation caused the suspension of regional, provincial and municipal officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Since then, the Alimaongs, comprised of Higaonon and Mandaya tribe members, had posted guards to prevent groups or individuals from spiriting the logs out.

But on Dec. 11, a group of local officials led by Mayor Francisco Rabat held what community members said was a "consultation meeting."

'. . . Mining is far more destructive than illegal logging because the damage goes far beneath the ground'

To the residents, however, the affair appeared more to be a "campaign for mining."

Attendance, too, was selected, according to Teresita Solapaz, a teacher from the Macambol Elementary School.

Solapaz said only a few of the residents were allowed inside the barangay hall where the "pro-mining campaign pitch" was held. Those left outside the hall were not allowed to express their opposition to mineral exploration.

"Apparently, somebody was controlling who would say what," she added.

The 14-strong elementary school teaching force and their principal, added Solapaz, were against any form of mining.

Teachers here had been very active in teaching their 420 pupils about protection of ecosystems.

"*Mogawas mi nga bakakon sa amon mga istudyante kon suportahan namo ang pagmina* (We'd appear to be liars to our students if we support mining)," she said.

"For the record, majority of the residents in Macambol is against mining," the teacher said as she expressed apprehension that consultation organizers might make it appear in their report that the residents had already given their consent.

The holy warriors expressed a similar apprehension, arguing that "mining is far more destructive than illegal logging because the damage goes far beneath the ground."

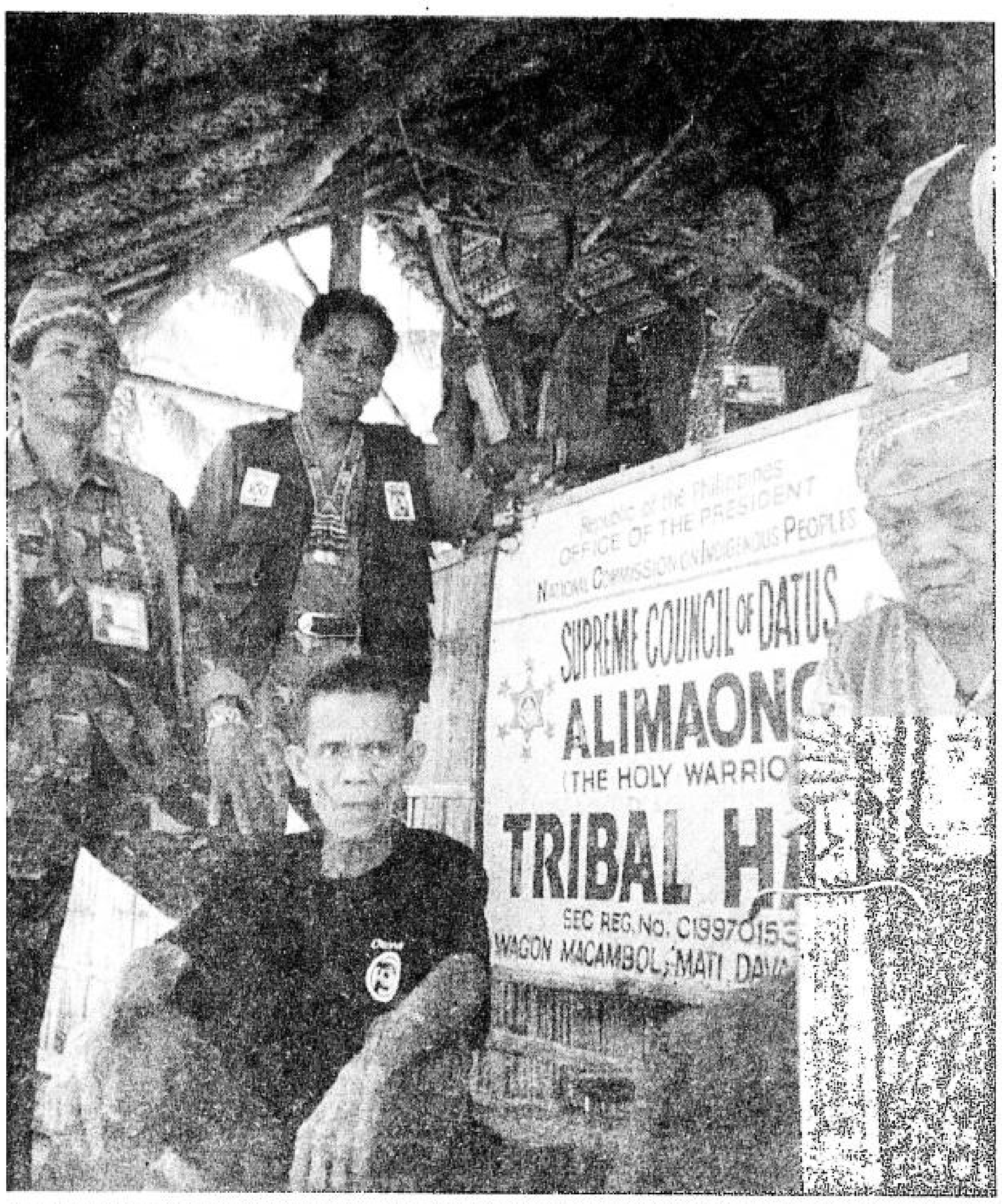
"While we do not have Christmas like what our Christian brothers have," Datu Manlutos adds, "*mag-ampo pud mi sa amoang paagi para sa pagsabtanay ug paghiliusa* (we'll also pray for understanding and unity in our own native way)."

Mayor Rabat was unavailable for comment when the INQUIRER called. No one from the mayor's office would want to confirm or deny allegations by Macambol residents that the "consultation" was rigged.

The INQUIRER also tried to talk with personnel from the DENR's municipal and provincial offices. No one was available for comment.

"Everybody is busy preparing for the Christmas revelry and vacation," one personnel who refused to be identified said over the phone.

Meanwhile, the holy warriors' Christmas vigil goes on. And it would outlast, they say, their Christian brothers' merrymaking.



THERE would be no merrymaking this holiday season for members of 'Alimaong,' a group of tribal members with a mission to protect their forests and land.
JOEY LOZANO

Celebrating Christmas at the dump

BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION
Butuan City

DOWNTOWN Butuan is already bustling with people flocking to the department stores, supermarkets and wet markets to do some shopping for their Noche Buena.

Meanwhile, in Purok 3 in Barangay Doongan, the dumpsite for the city's waste disposal, a different story unfolds:

Two days before Christmas, the scavengers—as what people call them—are busy collecting and segregating recyclable garbage from non-recyclable ones. Recyclable garbage would mean saleable items for them. It usually consists of selected plastics, bottles and scrap iron.

For them, Christmas shopping would depend on how much income they can derive from selling garbage.

Since Christmas Day is but a few days ahead, surely their *suki*, a certain "Sabo" from Barangay Obrero, will pay for their goods a little higher than the usual.

A day's work would usually fetch P50 to P100, depending on the quantity of collected garbage. In two days they are hoping to sell more to put food on their tables come Noche Buena.

Christmas shopping would be on the morning of Dec. 24. By then they would have more money to buy food and some gifts.

A typical Noche Buena consists of *pancit canton*, a few loaves of bread and soft drinks. The gifts range from dolls to dresses for the girls; toys guns, shirts and shorts for the boys. It may sound sadly insufficient for some, but for them it is all they can afford to buy. And yet, they are proud that at least the Christmas spirit is with them amid the adversities of their lives.

Santa and the children

If only Santa Claus was real and would care enough to come to their homes and ask the children what they want for Christmas, Felix, 15, says he would ask for *lechon manok* on their table on Christmas Eve to spice up their usual fare.

But Aries, 13, finds *lechon manok* an ordinary dish. "*Gusto nako tinood gyud nga litson, kanang baboy ba* (I want a real roast pig)."

Titong, 12, paused for a while and earnestly thought of what he wanted for Christmas. Finally, he spoke of his dream of having a miniature racing car, similar to what he found a few days ago buried under piles of garbage.

"*Naa man toy gubâ ang akong nakit-an, gusto tana nakô kanang bag-o gyud* (I saw one but it was already broken. I hope I can have a new one)," says Titong.

After several hours of toiling under the drenching rain, the children were whiling away their time atop a hauler truck.

The younger children proceeded to sing, "*Sa may bahay ang aming bati, Meri Krismas na maluwalhati* . . ." and they erupted to a round of laughter. They recalled a recent incident involving Titong, Aries and two other boys in their neighborhood.

They were singing carols to one of the more affluent homes in a nearby subdivision, when the owner shooed them away with stones instead of giving them a few coins.

"*Balik-balik man god mo'g pangarol, tan-awa* (You kept on going to his house, that's why)," Felix jokingly chided the two.

Caroling is one of their sidelines for Christmas. Some nights, they would earn P50 to P80, or more, depending on the generosity of the giver.

Of course, a night would not pass without the usual throwing of stones or the setting of dogs free when some homeowners are irked by the "noise" of the carolers.

Yet, the carolers remain undaunted and continue to belt Christmas songs each night.

Transferring the dump

Purok 3 in Barangay Doongan has been the city's dumpsite since 1971.

"There was no access road during those times. We were forced to walk above heaps of accumulated garbage from God knows where, flies buzzing and worms beneath our feet," recalls Bernardita Curalde, the purok president.

Her father and husband, both previous barangay chairs of Doongan, were instrumental for the creation of the existing access road.

In 1989, purok officials filed a petition to transfer the dumpsite away from their purok, citing the outbreak of garbage-borne diseases. The city government acceded to their petition and promised that it will be done in a year's time but failed to do so.

The reported cancer outbreak in the dumpsite in September prompted a renewal of the government's promise to transfer it to Barangay Dumalagan at the outskirts of the city next year.

Curalde said she is hoping that this time the city government will make good its promise and finally transfer the dumpsite.

"When will they finally transfer it? When all of us are already dead from cancer and other garbage-related diseases?" she asked.

Last Christmas in the dump

The new year looms ahead. For some, this brings hope, but for the "scavengers" it spells doom.

When the dumpsite is finally transferred, some families will have to transfer also, while others will opt to remain. Whichever way, this would mean separation from friends and families. Children will be uprooted from their playground cum workplace.

For people who depend on scavenging as a way of life, the new dumpsite would mean lots of new things to learn and experience.

But in the meantime, they are trying to make their last Christmas in the dump a memorable one.

LIFE and holidays in the dump.
KRISTINA CASSION

Zamboanga City comes to terms with terrorism

DUGONG MINDANAW

Gerky Valesco

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- ED.

THE PICTURE cannot be forgotten.

A man was pointing a gun at the head of a girl during the Cabatangan hostage-taking in Zamboanga City on Nov. 27.

Until today, that picture is one which parents could hardly bear staring at.

The terror that stared Zamboanga residents in the face has brought a different episode in the city's life.

It is one where children, young Mindanaoans, are the ones paying the price.

And parents were also plunged into the unsettled environment that their young ones now have to be in.

Parents are now bracing for the time when kids in Mindanao shall no longer find joy and excitement during the Yuletide season.

The Christmas spirit is slowly losing its meaning.

Just two weeks ago, almost all pre-school institutions decided to forego their Christmas programs and activities out of fear that another attack similar to that of Nov. 27 would disrupt the festivities.

Paranoia has set in also. The programs were canceled following reports that another attack would take place on Dec. 17.

One school started planning for the holiday season as early as October.

This school had planned to invite the mascot of a popular fast-food chain to its Dec. 18 Christmas party.

But the school administrator, with the Nov. 27 attack still fresh in the minds of Zamboanga residents, decided to move the celebration ahead.

The administrator issued an order on Dec. 11 for the Christmas break to start.

No parties, no fanfare, no exchanging of gifts, no games, no group pictures.

There was only prayer, and it was one for peace.

And the pupils were dismissed for the holiday break.

Parents who have been looking forward to putting on costumes on their children had to look for parties elsewhere.

They went to restaurants while other parents had to be content with buying their children balloons before going home.

'Parents are now bracing for the time when kids in Mindanao shall no longer find joy and excitement during the Yuletide season'

While the Department of Education, Culture and Sports announced early this week that the Christmas break will officially start on Dec. 21, it allowed schools to declare a break earlier.

The Ateneo de Zamboanga University observed its homecoming in a low profile atmosphere last week.

Unlike in previous years, Ateneo was gay and prominent in their homecoming activities in this old La Bella.

"Christmas is supposed to be for the children, for them to experience the joys of giving, the joys of friendship . . . whatever creed or religion one may come from. But with this situation, things may change. But we are not giving up hope yet," a 36-year-old pre-school teacher said.

Yes, that teacher, who has been rearing children to see the world with joy and happines[illegible] [illegible] Christmas is about hop

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo feeds children at the basketball court of the Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City during the television program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

MALACANAÑG PHOTO

President 'grilled' by kids

(From page A1)

In fact, she and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo watched the movie version of "He-Man" although their then teenaged children were no longer interested.

Now, with her children grown, she joins them in watching mostly action films, "either kung fu or blockbuster movies," such as those starring Harrison Ford, "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

A consistent honor student and, in her words, "very disciplined" as a child, the President admitted that she watched TV during her study time.

"Despite that, my grades were still good. But I'm not a child prodigy like (the moderator) Shaira," she said.

She also said her favorite subject in school was geography, which could explain her frequent travels.

A child asked if the President would allow her eldest child, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, to marry.

She said she would, and advised her now engaged son to be a faithful husband.

High prices

But the President did not completely escape a discussion of pressing issues.

To the question of why prices were high, she asked the child to say which commodities were expensive.

Asked why garbage was not being properly collected in a neighborhood in Quezon City, she directed the question to the barangay chair, who said dump trucks were making the rounds twice a week.

A child asked why people were fighting each other.

"That's true," she acknowledged. "That's what I'm also asking. Why is it that so many people fight?"

During the show, the President also made known her New Year's resolution: to be "more patient."

"*Kasi maraming nagsasabi na ang taray-taray kö raw. Kaya magiging less na mataray* (Many people say I'm quick-tempered. So my New Year's resolution is to be less so)," she said.

Gloria joins 'kabalen' in 'Simbang Gabi'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Her tight schedule notwithstanding, President Macapagal-Arroyo is holding fast to the "Simbang Gabi" tradition.

The President joined her *kabalen* (provincemates) yesterday, arriving at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in this capital town of Pampanga five minutes before the 4:30 a.m. Mass. Last Friday, she attended the 4 a.m. Mass at the historic Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan.

In both cathedrals that have seen the rise and fall of Philippine leaders, she is said to be the first President to attend Christmas Masses there.

Ms Macapagal, who traveled to Bulacan and Pampanga in her car, caught up on her sleep in transit.

Her arrival at the cathedral in San Fernando was largely unannounced. But the lanterns by the roadside and the cathedral and nearby city hall were all lit up for her visit.

Dressed in a long-sleeved cotton shirt, loose cotton pants and Nike rubber shoes—all in light blue—the President strode toward the front pew to the applause of some 2,000 surprised Mass-goers.

"Oh, she's small," an elderly woman whispered.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, their eldest son Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo and several local officials were also present.

During the Mass, concelebrated in Pampango by Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and five other priests, the President was seen suppressing a yawn. As the choir sang "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," she closed her eyes and locked her hands in prayer.

When the cold deepened she put on a peach-colored shawl.

In his homily Aniceto praised the President's observance of the "Misa de Gallo" as well as her visit that, he said, "deeply honored" the Kapampangan.

He said her observance of the nine-day tradition was also "a recognition of the need to say prayers and hold Masses for the world and the country."

Aniceto said Christmas rites such as the Misa de Gallo were also reminders of the need to put up a "new social order" where the central objective was the "redemption of the poor and marginalized people."

Reiterating the Yuletide message of Pope John Paul II, he said disorder continued in the world because of injustice and lack of respect for the dignity of individuals and groups.

The archbishop urged the faithful to say prayers for the President so that she would succeed in her peace efforts with communist and secessionist rebels.

It took Ms Macapagal some 30 minutes to move her way out of the cathedral after the Mass.

She walked along the middle aisle, receiving embraces, handshakes and greetings.

Breakfast

Unlike in Malolos, where she attended her first Misa de Gallo outside Malacañang, the President stayed for breakfast at the archbishop's palace in San Fernando.

She was served native chocolate, butter- and cheese-rich *ensaymada* and *suman*—a traditional repast after every Christmas Mass.

Aniceto said the President ate heartily, inquired about the health of the local leaders, but did not discuss the problems besieging her government.

After less than 20 minutes, she left for Malacañang and another hectic day.

Offbeat stories of the year

(From page A1)

Airlines took a strict view of security, as British transsexual Richard Ward will testify.

Ward was flying from Omaha, Nebraska, to Chicago, Illinois, when the airline staff asked him for identification papers. He handed over his passport in which he is clearly a man, and was then ordered to change out of his female attire.

He is suing the airline for $50,000 in damages for the "deep emotional stress and depression" after he missed his connecting flight to London.

In Nuremberg, an 18-year-old German student found this offer from a Turkish restaurant owner hard to resist: "Marry my daughter and I'll give you free doner kebabs (grilled slices of lamb) for life."

The man was eager for his 19-year-old daughter to join him in Germany, so he also told the student that he would pay for driving lessons and a holiday if the marriage of convenience came to be.

And it did. But shortly after the wedding, the young man was seized by regret and denounced himself to police.

Husband and wife, who have never lived together, now face trial together on fraud charges.

Fan

In Belgrade, a lovelorn fan had the night of his life with popular Serbian singer Goca Trzan.

The singer walked on stage in the Yugoslav capital's Sava concert hall and found that instead of the sell-out 4,000 crowd she had expected, there was just one man in the audience, right in the middle of the auditorium.

At first Trzan refused to perform, but when she learned that the fan had shelled out more than 20,000 euros to buy up all the tickets for the show, she agreed to put on a two-hour performance.

During the interval, she went and spoke with her fan, who kissed her hand and asked her to marry him.

In Stockholm, a stone maze, classified as an historic monument at least 500 years old, turned out to have been built in 1974 by two young students.

Thomas Karlen, now 37, was amazed to discover on his return to the resort of Grebbestad that a sign had been put up near the structure claiming it was an archaeological discovery difficult to date precisely but at least five centuries old.

He then admitted how, at the age of 11, he and his friend, Peter Witt, discovered a pile of round stones during a holiday and made a copy of a maze they had earlier seen at the Skansen theme park near Stockholm.

In Cairo, a young Egyptian woman who imbibed one drink too many while celebrating New Year's Eve with her colleagues from work, woke up the next morning to find herself married to one of them, with two of the others acting as witnesses.

Unable to remember a thing about the evening, or how she had come to sign a wedding contract, the woman immediately instigated divorce proceedings.

Stickup

In Bordeaux, France, a would-be armed robber decided to withdraw cash from his own account after failing to persuade a post office clerk to hand over a sack of money.

The clerk had explained he did not have the large sum being demanded, so the would-be holdup man settled for a small amount of cash, handing over his account book and identity card to do so.

Police arrested him at home shortly afterward.

In Tehran, a young Iranian woman used her *chador* to save herself from a kidnapping attempt.

The woman, Zohre, had tried without success to flag down a taxi and accepted a lift with a man who stopped for her.

Later realizing that he was driving her in the wrong direction, she unwound her *chador* from her head and flung it around his neck, forcing him to stop the car and allowing her to flee.

In London, the owner of two sex shops was fined nearly 10,000 euros for selling X-rated videos that were not X-rated enough for his customers.

In a complete reversal of the usual turn of events in such cases, owner Nicholas Griffin admitted cheating the public by selling tame videos in the guise of pornography.

And several of his dissatisfied customers banded together and took him to court.

In Ankara, an Egyptian illegal immigrant was deported from Turkey because he lodged a complaint with the police that the man he had paid $1,400 to smuggle him across the border into Greece had reneged on his word.

Bump-off

In Buenos Aires, passengers held up on a commuter train for an hour because of traffic delay watched in amazement as the engineer uncoupled the locomotive and drove off, leaving them stranded in the middle of nowhere.

They were forced to wait two hours until the same locomotive (but not the same driver) returned and took them to their destination.

The railway company said the driver's action was a result of a "misunderstanding," but newspaper reports suggested that the man got fed up with waiting, having worked half an hour beyond the end of his shift.

In Mainz, Germany, a blind man was fined 1,500 euros for drunk driving.

The 33-year-old tried to drive out of a car park but did not get very far. He crashed into the vehicle in front of him and then, putting the vehicle in reverse, smashed into the car behind.

Startled onlookers then called police.

In Miami, a man who tried to engage a contract killer to kill a rival who owed him money picked on the wrong man, for it turned out he was talking to the son of his intended victim.

Jose Sasa put the proposition to Leandro Pulido, offering him money to kill or maim his debtor.

When he heard the name of his father, Pulido kept quiet but informed police.

Sosa was promptly arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy.

'Les Miz'?

In Kinshasa, a duck held in prison for six months after stealing a cake in the central market, died in captivity.

The duck had been arrested when a trader accused it of eating a cake while his back was turned. It was initially held at a local police station and then taken before a court, charged with vandalism, and sentenced to detention in prison until its owner, who was legally responsible for its actions, came forward.

But the man never did and the duck ended its days behind bars. *AFP*

Interim gov't takes over in Afghanistan

(From page A1)

transfer of power, a poignant moment for this country, which since 1973 has seen power transferred only in coups and bloody war.

The 30-member government faces a staggering challenge: rebuilding a nation unprepared for a long, hungry winter and with coffers emptied by the fleeing Taliban regime.

As a Pashtun, Karzai represents Afghanistan's dominant ethnic group. His appointment to prime minister is viewed as a balance to the Northern Alliance's grip on several important ministries.

Karzai is also man with Western sensitivities and speaks English, making Americans comfortable with him. He worked closely with the US military in overtaking Kandahar, a southern Afghanistan city that was the Taliban's stronghold.

When outgoing President Rabbani arrived at the solemn proceedings, a drum roll sounded as he strode a red carpet, passing an honor guard of smartly dressed Afghan soldiers.

Cleric Barkat Ullah opened the ceremony with haunting recitations of the Koran. The audience then stood and sang the national anthem.

Tribute to Masood

Speaker after speaker paid tribute to Ahmed Shah Masood, the legendary guerrilla leader who first fought the occupying Soviets in the 1980s, and then the repressive Taliban, before being assassinated by a suicide bomber on Sept. 9. Behind the podium was a large portrait of the revered fighter.

Rabbani called him "the great hero of this Islamic jihad," or holy war, then thanked the international community for its support against the Taliban, saying his country is "thirsty for peace."

He also thanked God, "who gave us the power that we could present a united front once again. This is a historic moment that has not been witnessed in the last century."

The vast differences in this country, where warlords control large territories, were illustrated by the audience's disparate styles of dress. Some wore traditional deep blue turbans. Others were in military garb, and some wore topcoats and Western suits.

And though women are emerging from severe discrimination, the few who were allowed into Saturday's ceremony were segregated from the men.

Special UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi welcomed some dignitaries by name, struggling to speak in Farsi before giving up and switching to English.

"Looking around us, it is all too clear that Afghanistan has been physically and emotionally devastated," he said. "We all pray that this day will mark the end of the long dark night of conflict and strife."

Describing the suffering of the Afghan people, he said, "Up to 5 million of them are still living outside of their country as refugees, mainly in Pakistan and Iran."

"We all share the same goal," Brahimi said—to restore peace, ensure stability and "work hand-in-hand" to rebuild.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said until now, the Taliban had been the face of Afghanistan.

"Today we want to clean this face," he said. "Islamic countries will support you, and Iran as your great neighbor will help you."

Vanguard

Armed British Royal Marines in camouflage uniforms—a vanguard of international forces mandated to protect the new government—patrolled outside the whitewashed Interior Ministry, where the inauguration was held.

Uniformed Afghan police roamed the city and peered from rooftops. Entire neighborhoods near the ministry were cordoned off.

Representatives from every province jostled to get through a metal detector and into the hall. Many ticketholders pushed and shoved, trying to get in after being told the hall was packed to capacity.

Loudspeakers broadcast the proceedings to an overflow crowd milling outside. Old men in graying beards, wrapped in shawls of woolen blankets, stood next to clean-shaven men in topcoats and Western suits and Uzbeks in traditional clothes.

And while speakers called for peace, US forces continued to hunt on-the-run al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. Airplanes destroyed a convoy on Friday that the Pentagon claimed carried top leaders of the two groups. But an Afghan official said caravan was full of invited guests to the inauguration.

Gen. Tommy Franks, US commander of coalition forces that drove out the Taliban regime, was among the invited guests. He pledged to continue searching for fugitive fighters of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Franks did not directly answer questions about contradictory reports concerning the convoy bombing. "We will have to take a hard, long look at it," he said.

Afghan women

The interim government signals new life for Afghan women, who were systematically repressed by the Taliban's five-year rule.

"I am very happy for the women of Afghanistan today. Our lives have just begun," said Najia Sohail Zara, a schoolteacher who fled her country in 1996.

The first British peacekeepers entered Kabul on Friday under UN orders to provide security. The new government faces formidable tasks: the state-run bank has been looted, government employees haven't been paid for five months and most of Afghanistan's infrastructure in shambles.

Karzai, who carries the blessings of exiled King Mohammad Zaher Shah, must also try to unite a country where loyalties are given to warlords, many of whom have private armies and were heroes of the war against the Soviets.

At the end of six months, a tribal council will convene to plan a two-year administration that will take Afghanistan toward a permanent constitution.

In Kabul, some Afghan leaders have challenged the role of international peacekeepers, saying they will not be allowed to use military force or to interfere in Afghan affairs.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council authorized the peacekeeping force to use "all necessary measures" to ensure the government and themselves are allowed to operate in a "secure environment." *AP*

REUTERS

A US Special Forces soldier in Afghan dress digs a hole to bury a piece of rubble from the World Trade Center at Bagram Air Field north of Kabul on Friday. Firefighter Joseph Higgins, looking on, lost a brother in the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks and brought debris from the disaster to Afghanistan during a mission to deliver aid to an Afghan orphanage.

Congress OKs more pork in 2002 budget

(From page A1)

eral budget committee, rose not to interpellate but to note that the previous session where the budget was approved on second reading "ended in some confusion, if not some enmity."

"But in the spirit of the season, I believe we can set aside this unfortunate page in our history and restore the good and delightful relationship that we have," Zamora said, ending his remarks by wishing his colleagues the best of the season.

Senate extension

The Senate, which extended its session by another day to finish the budget, described the final version as "pro-poor" because of increased allocations for poverty alleviation programs.

The budget bill will now be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for approval.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on finance and sponsor of the bill, said the budget had three thrusts, namely, providing security to the people, providing the agricultural sector with access to markets and providing social assistance through poverty alleviation programs.

He said the bicameral committee met for three days "with a minimum of animosity and a maximum of difficulty" to reconcile the two versions.

Sen. Ralph Recto thanked the members of the Senate minority for protecting the budget and cooperating in reconciling the differing versions.

In the House, another minority lawmaker, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, also rose to wish the majority a merry Christmas. He even greeted De Venecia in advance of the Speaker's birthday on Dec. 26.

"We promise not to oppose the majority anymore this year," Aquino said, eliciting laughter from the members and the Speaker, who gamely said he accepted the time-bound promise.

Amid the noise of happy congressmen, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said they "once again rose to the call of service."

De Venecia hailed the minority for their "statesmanship, dedication to duty and the national interest." He declared the 12th Congress "one of the best performing Houses in the history of Congress."

Pork barrel

During the brief interpellation in the House, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla asked what accounted for the P2.28-billion increase in the Priority Development Assistance.

Rep. Rolanda Andaya Jr., House appropriations committee chair, said the "corresponding increase can be attributed to the Senate."

Andaya later told reporters that congressmen would get an additional P15 million in pork barrel allocations, on top of the existing P50 million.

He did not say how much the PDAF of senators increased, but one estimate places the amount at P178.6 million next year, up from P100 million this year.

Andaya clarified, however, that the PDAF could not be used for projects like basketball courts and waiting sheds but only on agriculture, farm-to-market roads, irrigation and water systems.

Padilla noted that the PDAF could "contribute to the stimulation of the economy."

"I am proud to report that the original P780.8 billion approved by the House will be the expenditure program of the government, our version prevailed (over that of the Senate)," Andaya said when the bicameral conference report on House Bill No. 2840 was submitted for ratification at 5:30 p.m.

It was ratified at 6:05 p.m.

New cops

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, another member of the bicameral committee, said P4 billion was earmarked for the Philippine National Police to enable it to hire, among others, 4,000 additional personnel.

The hiring of the new policemen will take effect on July 1, 2002.

The new budget includes P1.1 billion for the holding of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in May, a P500-million additional budget for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and P1.05 billion for the Casecnan dam project in Nueva Ecija.

The Senate had slashed the entire P10 billion earmarked for the modernization of the Armed Forces, but the House succeeded in restoring half of it.

Andaya said the other P5 billion for the AFP's modernization was included in the unprogrammed allocations, meaning it could be used if additional revenues are collected.

However, the committee allocated P964 million for the purchase of patrol boats for the Bureau of Fisheries and Agriculture Research.

The Department of Education got the biggest share of the budget pie, with P95.290 billion; followed by the Department of National Defense, P60.244 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P48.043 billion; and the Department of Interior and Local Government, P44.542 billion.

Other departments and their approved budgets: Department of Transportation and Communications, P11.990 billion; Department of Health, P11.365 billion; Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P6.530 billion; Department of Finance, P5.312 billion; Department of Labor and Employment, P 4.806 billion;

Department of Justice, P4.781 billion; Department of Foreign Affairs, P4.471 billion;

Department of Agriculture, P4.194 billion; Department of Science and Technology, P2.819 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P2.155 billion; Department of Trade and Industry, P1.812 billion; Department of Agrarian Reform, P1.599 billion; Department of Tourism, P895 million; Department of Energy, P503.653 million; and the Department of Budget and Management, P412.575 million.

Increased funding

The bicameral conference committee also increased the funding for the DPWH by P2.911 billion; the DILG by P732 million; the ARMM by P500 million; Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Program by P380 billion; DECS by P260 million; Commission on Elections by P168 million; other executive offices by P168 million; and Congress by P158 million.

Budget cuts included agrarian reform, down by P1 billion; the allocation to local government units-Municipal Development Assistance Fund, by P838 million; Foreign-Assisted Projects Support Fund, P200 million; the Bureau of Customs' SGS, P270 million; the budgetary support to government corporations, P168 million; and the DENR, P70 million.

Both houses of Congress will get P4.198 billion; the Office of the President, P3.151 billion; and the Office of the Vice President, P78.421 million.

All told, the state universities and colleges will get P95.030 billion while the autonomous regions will receive P5.073 billion. The ARMM received an additional P700 million for its infrastructure projects.

The budget of the judiciary was increased by P15 million, to P7.129 billion.

The conference committee also restored the P900-million proposed allocation by the executive department for the holding of the barangay elections in May next year and added P200 million more. The Senate version completely scrapped the allocation for this political exercise.

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and January 1

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6 Marcos 'cronies' face forfeiture cases

(From page A1)

to the Philippine government only recently.

In one account, that of Clavecilla, the PCGG has documentary evidence to prove that there was an attempt earlier in the year to lift the freeze.

Clavecilla wrote a letter to then President Joseph Estrada on Jan. 20, 2001, the same day he was ousted from Malacañang.

In her letter, she requested clearance from the PCGG to use the $250,000 that had been deposited in her account in the American Express Bank in Switzerland in March 1986. The bank has since been acquired by the Union Bancaire Privee.

"My . . . account was blocked, on the grounds that Mr. Geronimo Velasco's account had been blocked a week before my account was blocked," she wrote.

But she claimed that Velasco paid her the amount in 1986 "out of gratitude and appreciation of my services."

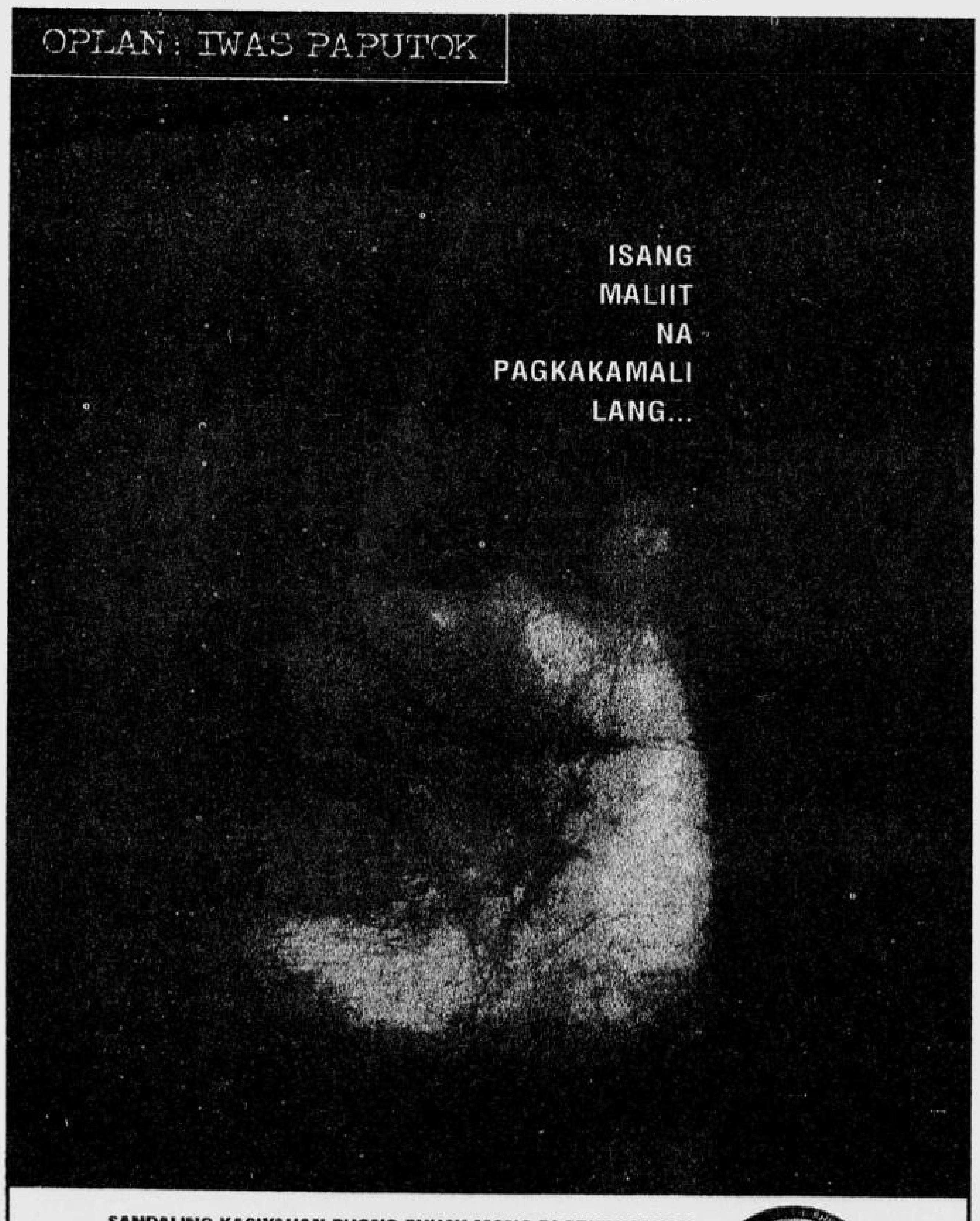
"The PCGG reasons that I was fronting for Mr. Velasco and that these funds are his. If I were fronting for anyone, would it be sensible to do so for just the amount of US$250,000?" she asked in her letter.

She said she would use the funds for the education of her children abroad.

She also denied that she had ever been a government employee.

The PCGG insists, however, that it has records to prove that Clavecilla in fact worked for the government.

The Ombudsman will conduct a preliminary investigation of the accounts before filing a case with the anti-graft court.



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Lunch and Dinner buffet
Plus: • *one (1) round of Christmas cocktail drink*
• *Instant Lucky Dip**
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December 24 & 25 (Lunch and Dinner Buffet)
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YULETIDE FEAST Php 888.00++
Plus: • *Drink of the Month with special Christmas token*
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December 31

COMBINATION OF NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET
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6:30p.m. - 2:00a.m.
Plus: Drink of the Month with special Christmas token • Midnight buffet • Live band entertainment at the Lobby Lounge

MEDIA NOCHE CELEBRATION W/ LIVE BAND ENTERTAINMENT Php 588.00++
(MIDNIGHT BUFFET ONLY) 11:00p.m. - 2:00a.m.
Plus: One (1) Round of Christmas cocktail drink • Glass of sparkling wine • Party favors for the New Year's countdown • 10% discount on Christmas goodies • Instant Lucky Dip • Live band entertainment at the Lobby Lounge*

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December 24 - 30 and January 1

YULETIDE HOLIDAY ROOM TREAT Php 3,200.00 net (per room, per night)
*Inclusions: Overnight stay in a Deluxe Room for two • Buffet breakfast for two at the Restaurant Riviera • 10% discount on Christmas goodies • Instant Lucky Dip**

December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE ROOM PACKAGE Php 2,300.00 net (per person, per night)
*Inclusions: Overnight stay in a Deluxe Room minimum of two (2) persons • New Year's Eve Buffet Dinner and Media Noche Celebration(Midnight Buffet) at the Restaurant Riviera • Party Favors for the New Year's Eve countdown at the Lobby Lounge • Buffet Breakfast at Restaurant Riviera on January 1, 2002 • 10% discount on Christmas goodies • Instant Lucky Dip**

*Get a chance to win these prizes for a minimum consumption of Php 700.00
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PLDT

Okay,

so we are

sensational.

Gloria to CEOs: Give poor youths jobs
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
WHAT'S INSIDE

Once again, The Inquirer is the nation's no.1 newspaper based on the latest Asia Research Organization Survey. For making us the most widely read daily eight years running, we heartily thank our readers and partners. Their support has been sensational. How can it not rub off on us?

Golf Power features Cantada Center

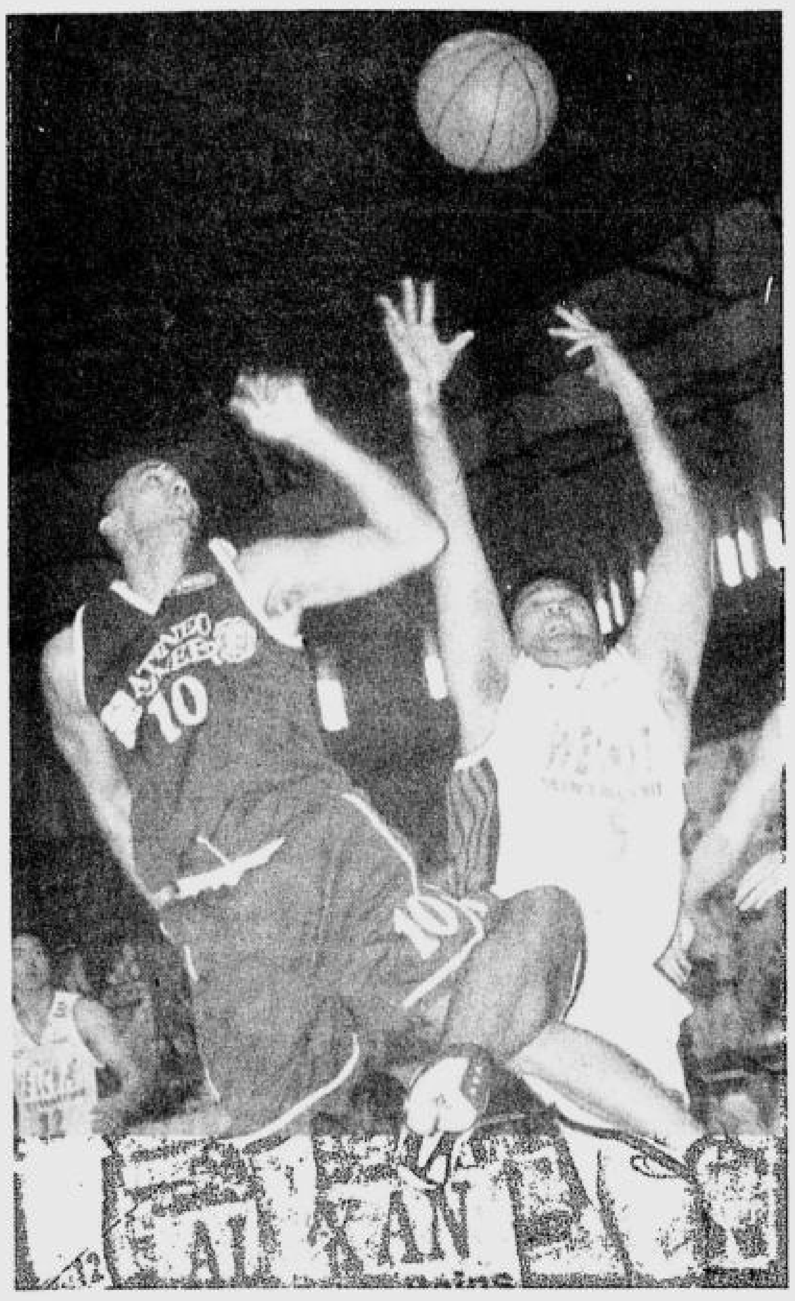
GOLF Power today features the highlights of the inauguration and blessing of the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig, Metro Manila. Also featured are golf tips, trivia, definition of golf terms and rules. Golf Power is now on its sixth year and is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13. It is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Cebu Pacific and Outback Steakhouse sponsor this week's golf program.

SundaySPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PBL CHALLENGE CUP

Welcoat streaks to 4th win



RICHIE Alvarez of Pioneer-Ateneo (left) and Welcoat's Allen Patrimonio battle for ball possession during their PBA game yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. Welcoat won, 86-57. BETOY JOHNSON

By Dennis U. Eroa

WELCOAT'S pro-bound dribblers did not disappoint as they powered the Paintmasters to an 86-57 victory over skidding Pioneer-Ateneo yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Slotman Yancy de Ocampo, gunner Ren Ren Ritualo, Jojo Manalo and Eugene Tan ripped Pioneer's defenses, extending the Paintmasters' winnning streak to four that enabled them to catch titleholder Shark Energy Drink and Blu Detergent in second place with a 7-4 card.

Newcomer International Container Terminal Services Inc-La Salle paces the 8-team field with a 7-3 win-loss slate.

"I ask those turning pros to continue playing their best. I'm glad they delivered," said coach Junel Baculi, who had steered Welcoat to four championships. The team is expected to lose its starters to the 2002 PBA draft next year.

In the second game, Kutitap Toothpaste bolstered its quarterfinal hopes with a 78-73 win over Ana Freezers. The Sparklers improved to 5-6, while dropping the Freezer Kings to 4-7.

Ritualo and company ran rings around their guards as Welcoat raced to its biggest lead, 75-41. Hounded by poor shooting, the Insurers were unable to put up a decent fight and were lucky to finish the game behind by 31 big points.

Scores:

WELCOAT 86—Ritualo 16, Manalo 15, De Ocampo 13, Cruz 9, Patrimonio 6, Tan 6, Encarnacion 5, Tolentino 4, Orfrecio 4, Canlas 4, Suba 2, Tuble 2.

ATENEO-PIONEER 57—Alvarez 10, Membrere 10, Noble 10, Fonacier 6, Ferrer 5, Villanueva 4, Avenido 3, R. Sison 2, Bugia 2, Mamaril 2, De la Rosa 2, Sison 1, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 27-15, 50-22, 65-39, 86-57

(Second Game)

KUTITAP 78—Gonzales 16, Gelig 13, Sison 10, Baguio 9, Mercado 6, Rivera 5, Salangsang 5, Lopez 4, Yuson 4, Dy 2, Saquilayan 2, Bajar 0, Espiritu 0.

ANA 73—D. Mendoza 23, Pascual 12, Capus 11, Vilar 9, Mendoza 7, Tubid 6, Flores 2, Artadi 2, De Castro 1.

Quarters: 15-17, 35-29, 56-47, 78-73

Jacobs names 17 aspirants

ILDEFONSO

RON Jacobs has made public the 17 PBA cagers of his choice but asked league officials for more time before naming the last player to the 18-man list recently approved by the Board of Governors.

Eleven Fil-foreigners and six homegrown talents were already named to the training pool, which will be divided into two squads and compete in the Governors Cup of the 2002 PBA season starting on Feb. 10.

Jacobs limited his choices to only two cagers from each team but stressed that players not included in the list could still join the pool provided that their mother ball clubs release them under the national team's care.

Fil-foreigners Danny Seigle (SMB), Asi Taulava (Talk N Text), Noy Castillo and Andy Seigle (Purefoods), Rudy Hatfield (Pop Cola), Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp (Red Bull), Ali Peek (Alaska), Chris Jackson (Shell), Jeffrey Cariaso (Tanduay) and Eric Menk of Barangay Ginebra made it to the list.

Homegrown bets Danny Ildefonso of San Miguel, Kenneth Duremdes (Alaska), Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino of Sta. Lucia, Don Camaso (Talk N Text) and Edward Juinio (Pop Cola) also grabbed slots in the national training pool.

Playmaker Johnny Abarrientos and Olsen Racela surprisingly failed to make the lineup but Jacobs expressed confidence the two will be released by their mother ball clubs to the national squad.

'Tito Nanoy'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I MET Nanoy Ilusorio only but once. That was in the '70s, when he hosted a wine-and-cheese party for 5 persons in a cozy pad somewhere in Pasay. Up to now, I do not know why I was one of the Chosen 5. I was in my early '20s. I had long hair. The other four were much older than I. Top bananas from the corporate world, who all had short, cropped hair.

"Ah, the sportswriter is with us," said the man they fondly call Mang Nanoy, looking me straight in the eye. "Thank you for honoring my invitation."

Until that evening, Mang Nanoy was but a name to me.

The man had wit, was of great intellect. As chair of the UP-Diliman Student Council in the '30s, the man who would become a lawyer commissioned the construction of what is now known as the symbol of academic freedom: the "Oblation" at UP.

When we parted ways, he became an idol. Sadly, we never met again; he died on June 28 at age 88—the age of his mother when she passed away.

I met his son, Max, and daughter, Sylvia, some months back through a mutual friend, Des Bautista (Auring's "best" half), who had us invited to a dinner at Iggy's of Baguio. Also present in that dinner was Rico Agcaoili, Mang Nanoy's appointed successor as president of the Baguio Country Club. Never told them I had met Mang Nanoy.

"I call him Tito Nanoy because he was my mentor in life," said Rico of Mang Nanoy. "He was my professional sounding board and inspired me to pursue his dream and vision for me to become president of the Philippine Bar Association. Most of all, he gave me the privilege to be privy to his mind and heart and the inner recesses of what was good, fine and pure in them."

On Dec. 29, the 2nd Nanoy Ilusorio Cup Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at the Baguio Country Club. I wish all the participants luck. May you continue Mang Nanoy's tradition of upholding the spirit of the game: Sportsmanship and camaraderie at all times.

Lim pockets Manzano Memorial

SECOND seed Arithmetico Lim of Chiang Kai Shek School defeated Hussein Macapandeg, 6-2, 6-2, yesterday to pocket the boys' 14-under title in the fourth Armando Manzano Memorial Cup Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The boys' 16-under title went to sixth-ranked Michael Basco, who bested second seed Jandrick de Castro, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 while unseeded Christian Canlas claimed the boys' 12-under title following a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Martin Ramos.

Top seed Ian de Guzman, Berry Sepulveda, Melissa Orteza, Jessica Agra and Gerard Michael Ngo ruled their respective divisions in this tournament held in honor of the late ITF white badge referee Armando Manzano and supported by PSC, Viva Mineral Water and official ball Dunlop.

Team QC rules 'Pamasko' chess

TEAM Quezon City outgunned Philippine Army-A to win the recent Pamaskong Handog ng NCFP 2001 National Open Chess Team Championship at the 5th level of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

GM Eugene Torre, playing for Board 1 of Quezon City, defeated Army's FM Fernie Donguines in 41 moves of a Trompovsky Attack to lead his team to a 2.5-1.5 victory over the Army men.

Deaf-mute Liolen Tubianosa defeated Julius Carman on the second board while Ilann Perez held Ildefonso Datu to a draw to provide the clinching scores for Quezon City woodpushers. Rustom Tolentino won over QC's Efren Arguelles for Philippine Army's lone full point in the match.

Gold Edition makes farewell run

LOCAL racing's "Iron Lady" Gold Edition takes one final stab at track glory as she makes her farewell run today in the P1-Million Philracom Sampaguita Distaff Championship, battling 10 other outstanding fillies at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Competing in top rung company for the past three years, the multiple stakes winning 5-year-old mare will attempt to go out in style as she sets out to score a decisive victory in the 1,900-meter classic encounter exclusive for fillies and mares.

"The Sampaguita Distaff Championship is a showcase of the most dominant fillies and mares in active racing and a fitting tribute to the country's leading female families. These horses represent the future of Philippine racing as their eventual progenies are expected to become outstanding racing and breeding prospects," said Philracom chair Andrew A. Sanchez. Sanchez and MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr. are expected to award the trophies to the winners.

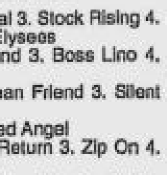
Owned and bred by the prominent Cayco family, Gold Edition, sired by the National Stud Farm (NSF)-owned stallion Periscope (AUS) out of Thorn of Gold (AUS), makes her 37th start in a storied track career that saw her race in the company of champions Real Top and Wind Blown.

Wizards prevail

ORLANDO, Florida—The Washington Wizards won their eighth straight game despite an off night by Michael Jordan and an injury to Richard Hamilton, beating Orlando Magic, 93-75. Jordan scored 12 points, 10 in the first half, and shot just 3-for-16 from the field. Hubert Davis scored 19, and Popeye Jones added 13 points and a season-high 14 rebounds. Washington last had an eight-game winning streak late in the 1982-83 season. Complete Results: Indiana 100, New Jersey 94; Philadelphia 94, Atlanta 83; Boston 98, Utah 92; Cleveland 86, Miami 81, OT; Washington 93, Orlando 75; Memphis 114, LA Lakers 108; Minnesota 94, Charlotte 89; San Antonio 109, Denver 74; Portland 83, Detroit 81; Seattle 111, Golden State 108, OT. AP

Gold Cup surprise

ONE WINNER



Edwin Villanueva

THE BIGGEST surprise in the recent Presidential Gold Cup came in the form of Batangas Entry.

Not so many believed Paolo Mendoza's speedy galloper could last the punishing 2,050-meter route but surprises do come in big races like the PGC.

Even Marho President Putch Puyat couldn't hide his amazement over Batangas Entry's performance that day.

"I thought *kakalas na siya nang lagpasan ni* Wind Blown *pero nagulat ako nandun pa rin sa segunda*," Puyat said. "*Ano kaya ang sikreto ng pagpapakundisyon sa kanya?*"

Incidentally, it was Puyat's horse, the gelding Charlemagne, whom Batangas Entry beat in the photo to snatch the P500,000 runnerup purse.

An P85 dividend on that Wind Blown-Batangas Entry forecast combination was considered hefty enough for those who made the right bet.

***

This is the time of year when we doff our hats to our friends who have been with us through thick and thin.

We salute the Big Guns of Philippine racing—Putch Puyat, Sandy Javier, Hermie Esguerra, Rudy Mendoza and Myther Bunag.

We also raise a glass to Manny Viray, Jimmy Dilag, Koko Cayco, Ochie Santos, Rudy Prado, Rev Reverente, Rolly Rojas, Joy Rojas, Mar Tirona, Nonoy Niles, Ching Vicente, Fulton Su, Delfin Almeda, Jun Almeda, Roger Tandiama, Vey Cruz, Bong Guce, Badjao Recosana, Dhunoy Raquel, Bornok Borbe, Jeh Guce, Lyndon Guce, Joey Macaraig, Bojie Fernandez, Nick Atienza, Caloy Macaraig, Johnny Sordan, Nestor Manalang, Fred Abobo, James Saguiped, Andy Sevilla, Bobok Domingo, Howie Basilio, Butch Maniego, Ka Edong Detubio, Go Teng Kok, Jovy Mamawal, the Cantada family, Mel Lopez and family, Tom Ong and Tac Padilla.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Dynasouls 2. Sky Wind 3. Boss Lino 4. Snowy Lane
Race 3—1. Winning Heart 2. Ocean Friend 3. Silent Heat
Race 4—1. Crystal Horizon 2. Gifted Angel
Race 5—1. Fire Mouth 2. Happy Return 3. Zip On 4. Black and White 5. Shuttle's Magic
Race 6—1. Gold Edition 2. Materiales Fuertes 3. Sky Hawk 4. Kitty Hawk 5. Kiwi Rose 6. Serena
Race 7—1. Ilocandia Slew 2. Going Free
Race 8—1. Replica 2. Do It David 3. Day and Night/Lucky Strike 4. Zaragoza Real 5. Queen of Less
Race 9—1. Bumper to Bumper 2. Rumaragasa 3. Ann's Magic 4. Impeachment 5. Simpatika
Race 10—1. Gifted Guest 2. Astuce 3. Legend of Gala 4. Ysabela 5. Good Grace
Race 11—1. Real Dancer 2. Ohayo Gozaimas 3. Air Express 4. Aurora Borealis
Race 12—1. Empire Girl 2. Always 3. Dragon Doding 4. Beautiful Task
Race 13—1. Morning Glory 2. Jerold's Dream 3. Diligence 4. Standout 5. Samahan 6. Traktora

Tennis player leaves camp

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAYJAY Stewart, the Fil-American tennis player whose entry to the Philippines' Davis Cup team created a stir among homegrown bets, has reportedly decided to quit from the squad and compete in satellite tournaments in the United States instead.

This was disclosed by Children's Tennis Workshop head Jovy Mamawal, who had criticized the Philippine Tennis Association for including Stewart to the national pool "as it disrupted the preparation of the four regular players." Mamawal said Stewart is set to fly back home on Dec. 27, although some members of the team -- Joseph Victorino, Michael Mora III, Adelo Abadia, Johnny Arcilla -- are skeptical over the Fil-Am's decision.

Mamawal said putting in an additional player "at the last minute" affected the morale of the team members, who have been preparing for the February Davis Cup tie against Kazakhstan all year long.

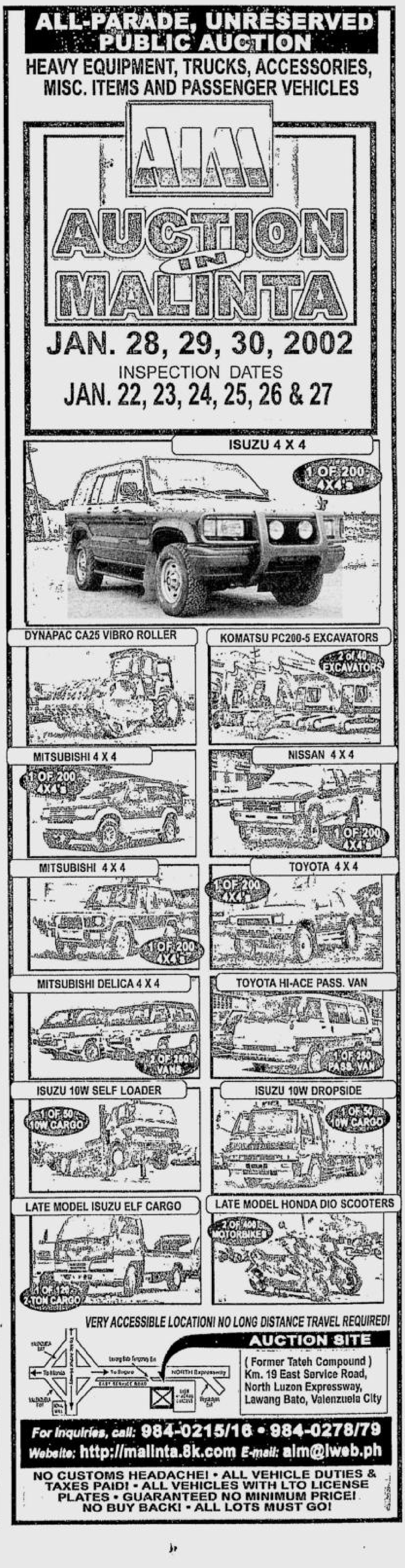
"The last thing we need right now is excess mental baggage. Instead of focusing on the Kazakhs' high-level of tennis, the Philta has forced the players into a guessing game. That's mental torture," said Mamawal.

Philta president Buddy Andrada earlier announced the tryouts among the four regular players and Stewart in his effort to come up with the best possible team for the Davis Cup, where the country is competing again in Group 2 after being relegated to Group 3 last year.

'PBA Greatest' on RPN 9 today

THE "PBA's Greatest Games" show today at 12 noon on RPN 9 looks back at the powerhouse Great Taste team of the mid-eighties which won four straight PBA championships in 1984 and 1985. Coached by the legendary Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and powered by 1985 Most Valuable Player Ricardo Brown and Mythical Team selections Willie Pearson, Manny Victorino and Abe King, Great Taste won the PBA Open and PBA All-Filipino conferences in 1985, beating Magnolia and Shell, respectively. Today's show looks back at the highlights of those title series.

Magnolia was then led by the Best Import and current Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, while Shell featured former Crispa stalwarts Bogs Adornado, Philip Cezar and Bernie Fabiosa.



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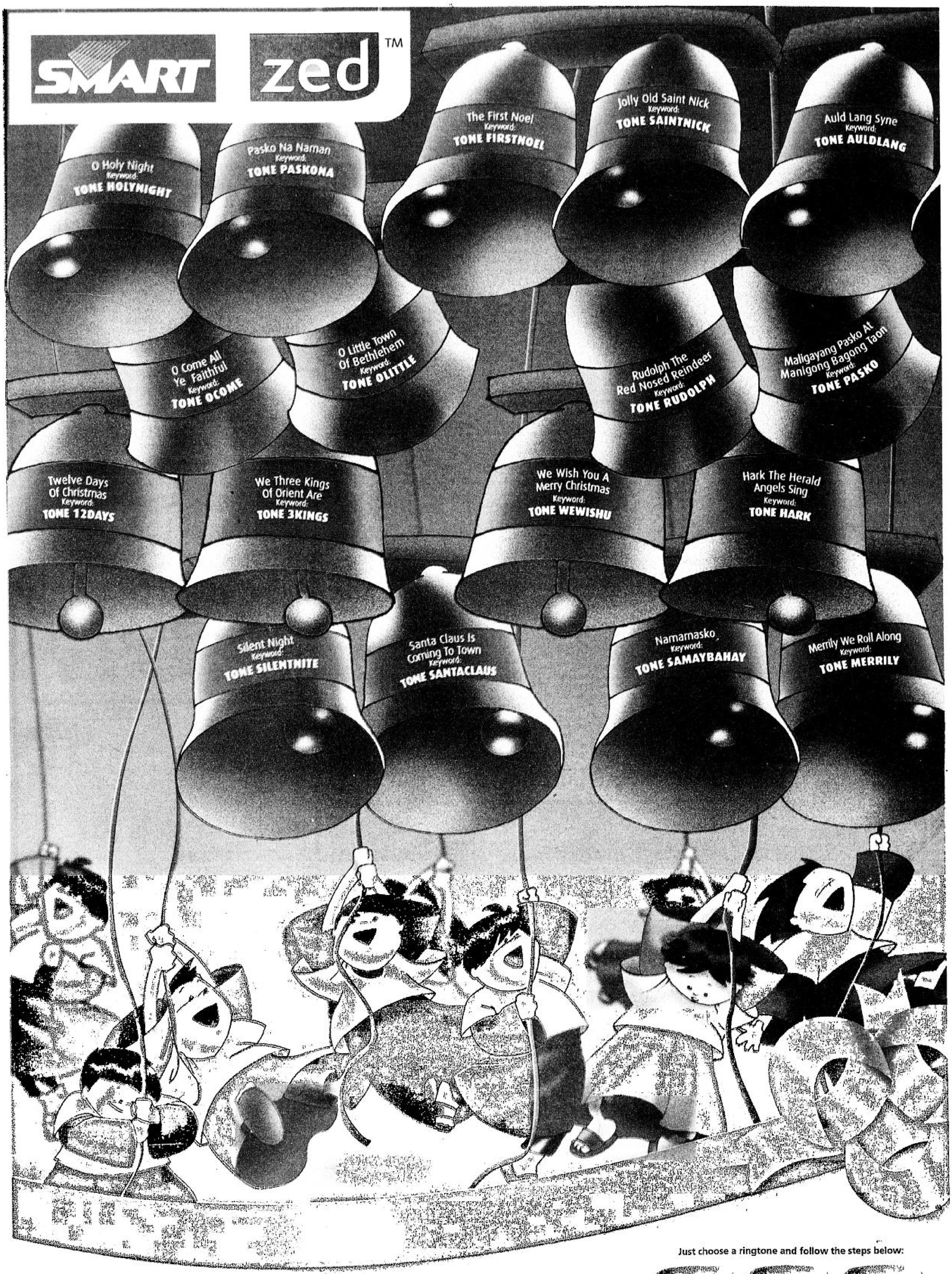
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Keyword:
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O Little Town Of Bethlehem
Keyword:
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Keyword:
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Maligayang Pasko At Manigong Bagong Taon
Keyword:
TONE PASKO
Twelve Days Of Christmas
Keyword:
TONE 12DAYS
We Three Kings Of Orient Are
Keyword:
TONE 3KINGS
We Wish You A Merry Christmas
Keyword:
TONE WEWISHU
Hark The Herald Angels Sing
Keyword:
TONE HARK
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Keyword:
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Lim to Atienza: Stop muddling Mehan issue A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Makati plans to set up own traffic scheme A22

DOWN with the billboards (below) and up with a sleek downtown look on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao (above).

'WORLD-CLASS BUSINESS DISTRICT'

Cubao to be born again, says QC dad

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CUBAO, which for a time in the '70s was the busiest commercial, shopping and entertainment center in the metropolis, will be born again.

The Quezon City government of Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and the Araneta group led by patriarch Jorge L. Araneta have joined hands in an ambitious program called the Metro Centro Quezon City Development Plan which aims to transform Cubao and its immediate environs into a world-class business district.

The Metro Centro project covers 911 hectares and is divided into three phases, according to Quezon City and Araneta authorities.

CUBAO TO BE/ A22

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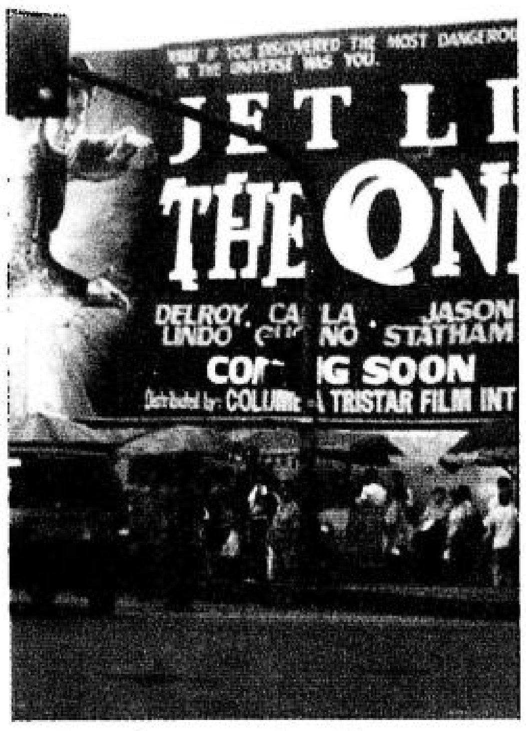


Twin girls killed in Bulacan fire

BY CARMELA REYES,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

NIDA BUENA only wanted to buy her three daughters new clothes and food for Christmas, when she decided to leave her children alone in the house on Friday night to go to her neighbor's residence and try her luck at a bingo game.

It was the last time she would see her twin daughters alive.

At 11 p.m., fire struck the Buena household in Barangay Fatima 2, San Jose Monte City, Bulacan, and killed the twins Joan and Jolina, 3.

Buena, a laundrywoman, managed to save her eldest daughter Jocelyn, 6, from the fire, but they both sustained severe burns in their bodies.

They were taken to the Sapang Palay District Hospital in Bulacan, investigators said.

Police said the fire broke out while the three children were asleep. It took the fire only 20 minutes to raze the family shanty, reports said.

Supt. Absalon Zipagan, Bulacan fire officer, said Buena left a lighted kerosene lamp on the floor of the house near where her children were sleeping before she left about 8 p.m. to play bingo in a neighbor's house.

TWIN GIRLS/ A22

NBI grills top suspect in Nida slay

BY JEROME ANING

SOURCES at the National Bureau of Investigation said "one of the most likely suspects" in the Nida Blanca murder case has already been interrogated.

But the NBI still cannot find strong and sufficient evidence yet to link the "suspect" to the crime and would not dare divulge the person's name in public.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the "most likely suspect" was one of the people who went to the NBI to give a statement on the crime.

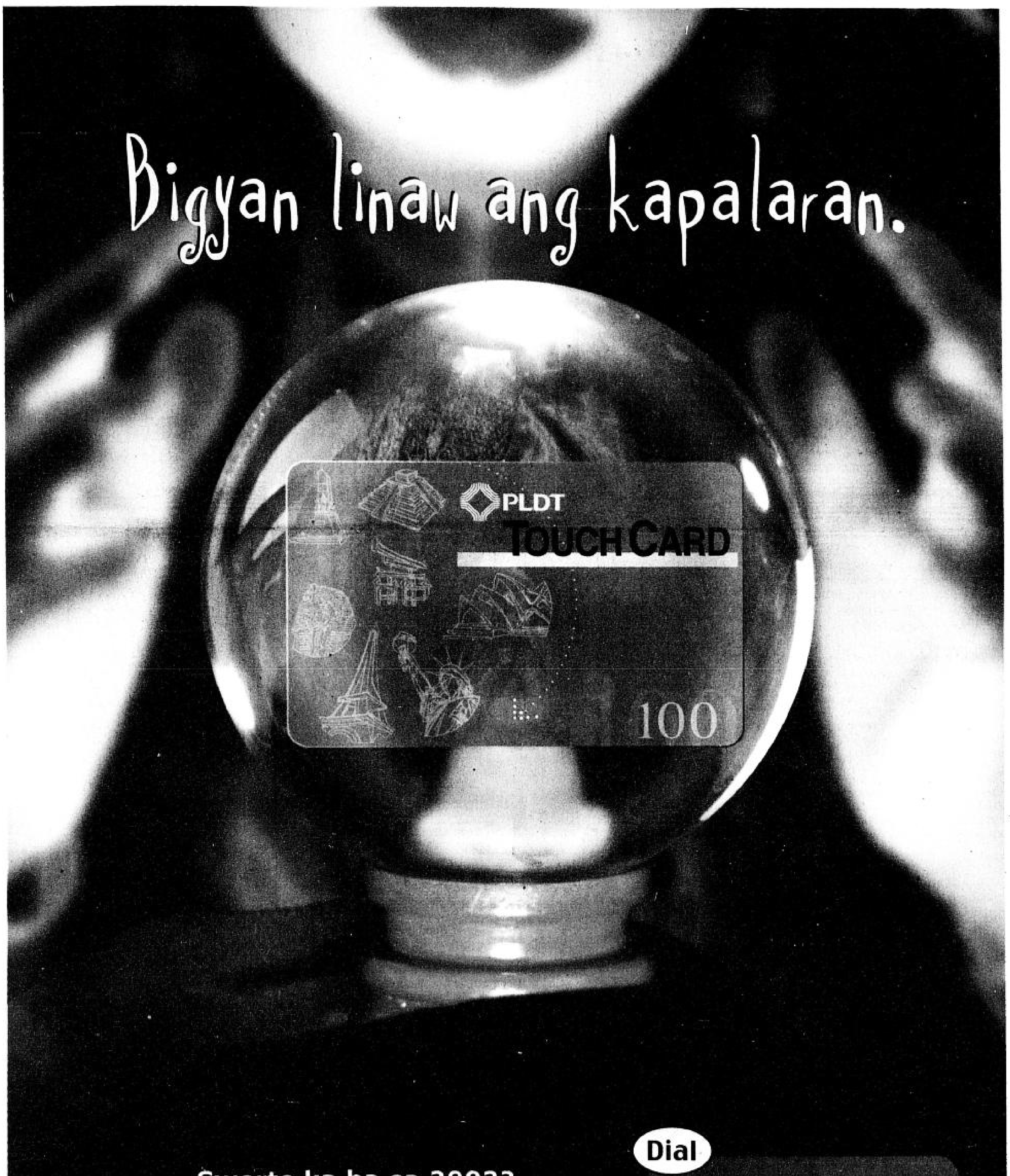
The person was among those initially named as suspects by the Philippine National Police's Task Force Marsha, the sources said. The "suspect" was one of the actress's last companions on the night she was killed.

"This person's name always turns up whenever we have our case conferences with the investigators," one source said. "And we have three witnesses who are all prepared to say that this person was the one who picked up Blanca at the Atlanta Center building on the afternoon of Nov. 6."

The source added that the suspect "has strong political connections" and is "financially stable."

Another source added one of the witnesses even helped police artists to complete a sketch of the person. According to that source, there was a "95 percent" match of the suspect to witnesses'

NBI GRILLS/ A22



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WPD cops to stake out churches

WESTERN Police District officials said they have repositioned their forces in Manila, after they noted an upsurge in cellular phone snatchings and gang wars on city streets.

According to police, the hardest hit were the churchgoers who attend the traditional "Simbang Gabi," or midnight mass.

Chief Insp. Floriano Agunod, WPD spokesperson, said lawmen will be concentrated in Divisoria and Tondo, particularly on C.M. Recto Avenue, and in Malate, where petty crimes are frequently committed.

Agunod said all 11 WPD stations have been told to watch over Roman Catholic churches where the traditional dawn masses are held. Mobile patrol units would also be tasked to post operatives near churches.

Several clashes between members of street gangs have taken place during midnight masses in the capital over the week. *Jerome Aning*

Lim to Atienza: Stop muddling Mehan issue

LIM

ATIENZA

By Jerome Aning

FORMER Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday branded as "lies" the allegations of the camp of Mayor Lito Atienza that Lim's supporters are behind conservationists' efforts to stop Atienza's projects on the Mehan Gardens.

"I categorically deny any involvement in the opposition to those projects since I have opted from the start not to have any position, nor comment on the Mehan controversy," an angry-sounding Lim told the INQUIRER over the phone.

"I have never been involved in politicking in Manila because the election campaign has been over long ago; they are the ones who are politicking with the lies they are spreading," he added.

The former mayor claimed his name has just been dragged into the controversy by the Atienza camp "to cloud the real issue." He accused Atienza's allies of injecting politics in the struggle to preserve Mehan.

"Why don't they just address the questions that are being raised against them?" he added. "Why do they make me an excuse for every opposition they encounter?"

Lim unsuccessfully tried to regain the mayor's seat from Atienza in the last elections. He and Atienza were former political allies.

Early this week, an Atienza ally, Councilor Marlon Lacson, claimed that supporters of Lim are behind the opposition to the construction of the Park 'N Ride and the new City College of Manila campus on the 140-year-old Mehan Garden.

Lacson, the Council's majority floor leader, believed that the conservationists were really after the retention of the nearby Arroceros Forest Park, one of Lim's projects when he was mayor.

The park is being eyed for another Atienza project—a new building for the city school's division.

"I know that I would be accused of politicking if I say anything about the Mehan so I kept quiet," Lim said, adding he does not even know the persons opposed to the projects.

City Hall stood pat on its position to construct the Park 'N Ride on the CCM, despite objections from the National Historical Institute, the National Commission for Center and the Arts and, various private conservation groups.

The conservationists claim Mehan was one of the liveliest parks and recreation areas in the capital. With the help of the Lions Club, he said he put up bright lights, an aviary, a park honoring the United Nations' 50th anniversary, and a fishpond.

The degeneration of the Mehan Garden, he said, should be blamed on Atienza, who succeeded him as mayor in 1992. Lim claimed Atienza neglected the improvements he made and even dismissed the security guards and gardeners he hired to oversee the park.

"The ambiance has gone with the wind, and they didn't even do something to retain it," the former mayor added.

With regards to the Forest Park, Lim explained it was a legitimate project and was even supported by then First Lady Amelita Ramos.

"Although the park was intended for educational purposes, it does not mean that we are going to construct a building there," he said. "We want to use it as a venue to educate our students about the importance of trees and ecology in general."

City Hall plans to build on the park a new office of the Department of Education-Manila and the city schools division. Atienza said trees that would be affected will not be cut but replanted, as what had happened to trees in the Mehan Garden.

Cubao to be born again...

(From page A21)

The first phase covers the development of a central business district including the Araneta Center and the areas from P. Tuazon Boulevard, 15th Avenue, Edsa and Aurora Boulevard.

The CBD is envisioned to house corporate and local offices as well as support facilities such as hotels, residential condominiums, entertainment facilities and shopping centers, including the Araneta Center.

Phase II of the redevelopment will include New York Street, 20th Avenue, P. Tuazon, Main and Seattle streets.

The intermediate district will play host to neighborhood and personal services shops, parking lots and transit and transportation terminals, residential areas and a network of parks to balance the urban landscape.

Phase III will cover Kamuning, Kamias, Katipunan and C-5 roads Boni Serrano Avenue and Balete Drive. This district is composed mostly of residential neighborhoods, where the road network will be redeveloped and enhanced to improve access to and from the two inner districts.

Araneta marketing director Gogoy Avelino told the INQUIRER that the Araneta Center redevelopment program goes hand in hand with the Metro Centro project.

Ambitious

The Quezon City government took the lead in implementing the ambitious program when it embarked on a clean-up drive last month. The clean-up drive in the Araneta Center and its immediate environs included the relocation of illegal vendors, the deployment of more security personnel and police officers round the clock and the lighting of the city streets.

This will be followed up with infrastructure programs such as the improvement of the drainage along Arayat Street and the Diliman Creek, the relocation of squatters near Cambridge Street and the widening of P. Tuazon from Edsa to 15th Avenue.

The Araneta Center for its part has laid out plans for the redevelopment of the Araneta Center, 40 years after it was established. The Araneta Center redevelopment master plan uses a bold, new design concept that will build more than 2 million square meters of floor area and almost 30,000 parking slots.

The design concept combines state-of-the-art retail, entertainment, office and residential uses complemented by a lush garden city environment.

Glory that was Cubao

The first phase of the Araneta redevelopment master plan will include the construction of a shopping mall, a business hotel and around 80,000 square meters of office space that will focus on information technology.

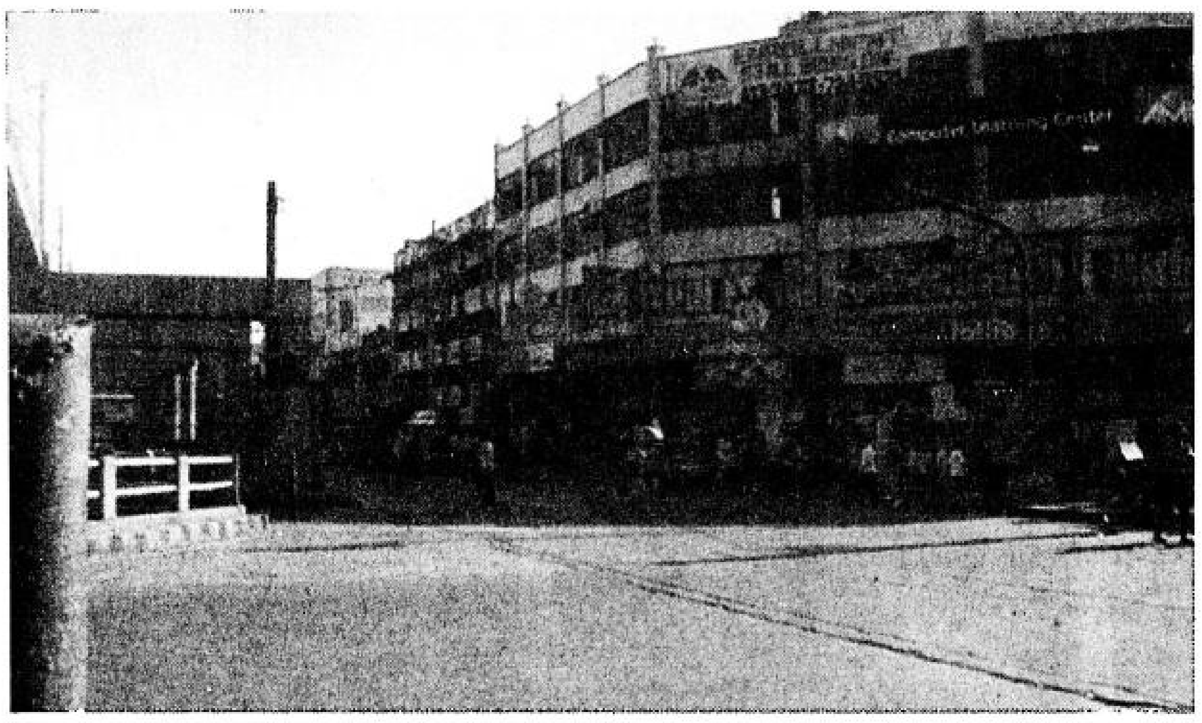
When the Makati skyline was mostly sky and only a few high-rise business offices, and when Ortigas was just a vast grassland, there was Cubao. It housed the first shopping mall, Ali Mall which was built in the late 1970s, the first department store of the Shoemart group, one of the first Rustan's outlets, New Frontier which was the biggest moviehouse with a 2,000-seat capacity, and the 22-level Aurora office tower.

The glory that was Cubao, unfortunately, diminished through the years as the district was not able to keep up with new real estate developments that gave rise to Makati and Ortigas.

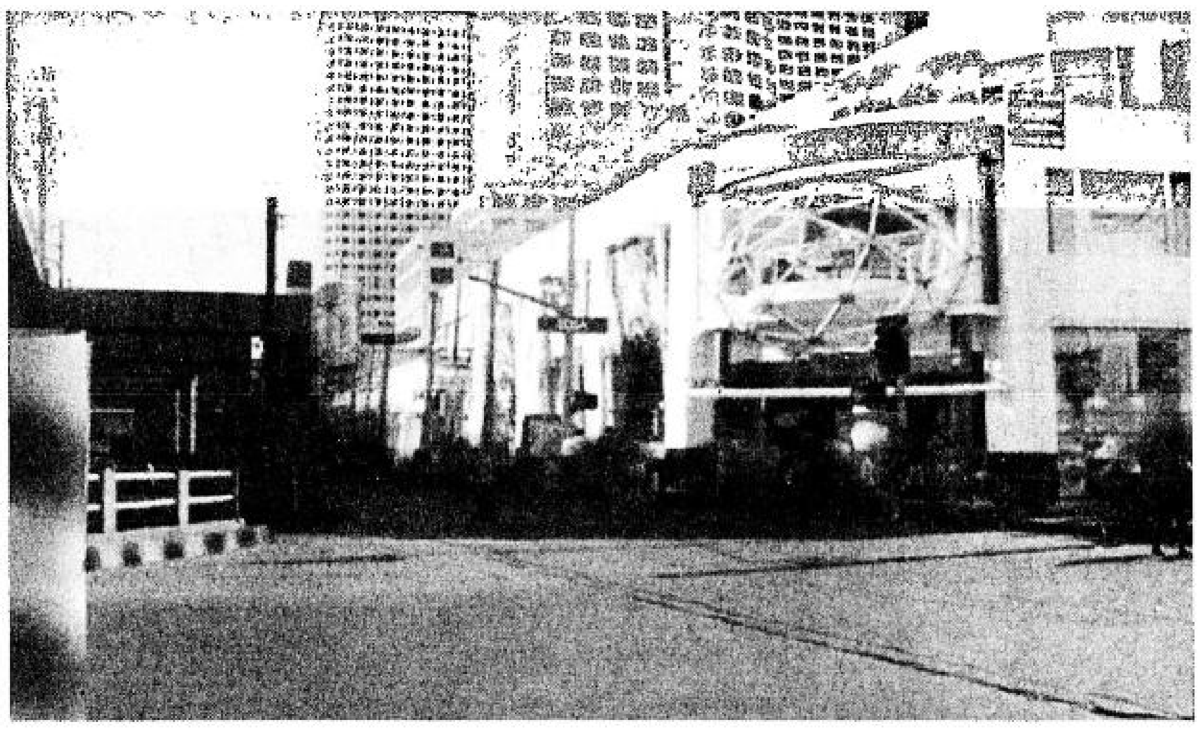
Inadequate lighting of the main thoroughfares, the growing crime rate and the garbage problem helped tarnished Cubao's image as a prime destination.

Cubao remains one of the busiest parts of the metropolis, and the only area where the two biggest public rail transit systems intersect—the Metro Rail Transit running north to south and the Light Rail transit going east to west.

Once the multi-billion-peso projects are completed, Cubao is expected to reclaim its status as the premier business district in Metro Manila, which also enjoys a central location and unparalleled accessibility, according to both the Quezon City government and the Araneta Center administration.



WINDS of change are blowing in Cubao, where city planners hope to turn the crucial intersection of Aurora and Edsa (above as it now looks) into the thoroughbred of thoroughfares (below).



Makati plans to set up own traffic scheme

By Alcuin Papa

THE MAKATI government is planning to impose its own version of the "color-coding" scheme in a bid to ease the worsening traffic situation in the city.

Hermenegildo San Miguel, director of the Makati Public Safety Assistance, the city's own traffic enforcement group, said he has proposed to the city council a bill that will create a local version of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP), or what is commonly referred to as "color-coding."

San Miguel formally made the proposal to Councilor Johnny Wilson, chair of the committee on public transportation. In turn, Wilson's committee has started conducting studies and consulting traffic officials on the matter.

Once San Miguel's proposal is enacted, it will render all exemptions issued by the MMDA invalid, at least within the city of Makati.

San Miguel has complained that the MMDA has been issuing too many UVVRP exemptions, resulting in traffic jams in Makati. His men, San Miguel said, have apprehended numerous motorists who violated the "color-coding," but were dismayed to find they have MMDA clearances. He also doubted if these vehicles deserved to be exempted.

"(The UVVRP) has become useless," San Miguel said.

During rush hours, the total number of vehicles in Makati is estimated at 450,000, as compared to 41,500 Makati-registered vehicles.

The MMDA passed Regulation No. 95-001 and 96-004 creating the UVVRP. Based on the ending of its registration plates, vehicles are prohibited from all thoroughfares once a week at certain times.

Those with plate numbers ending with 1 and 2 are banned on Mondays; 3 and 4, Tuesdays; 5 and 6, Wednesdays; 7 and 8, Thursdays; and 9 and 0, Fridays. The UVVRP is not in effect on Saturdays and Sundays.

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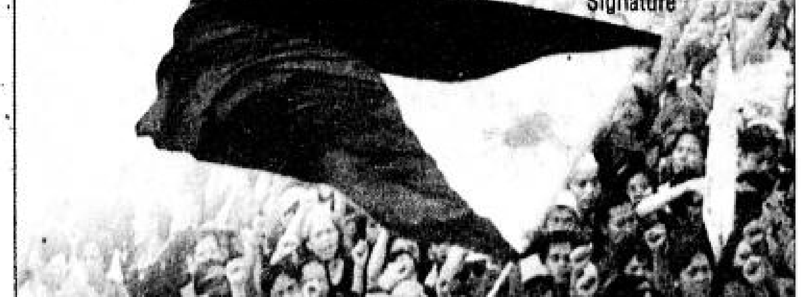

News that makes a difference

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 23, 2001
4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: **Is 7:10-14**

Once again Yahweh addressed Ahaz, "Ask for a sign from Yahweh your God, let it come either from the deepest depths or from the heights of heaven."

But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask, I will not put Yahweh to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Now listen, descendants of David. Have you not been satisfied trying the patience of people, that you also try the patience of my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The Virgin is with child and bears a son and calls his name *Immanuel.*"

2nd Reading: **Rom 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, an apostle called and set apart for God's Good News, the very promises he foretold through his prophets in the sacred Scriptures, regarding his Son, who was born in the flesh a descendant of David, and has been recognized as the Son of God endowed with Power, upon rising from the dead through the Holy Spirit.

Through him, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for the sake of his Name, we received grace and mission in all the nations, for them to accept the faith.

All of you, the elected of Christ, are part of them, you, the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy: May God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, give you grace and peace.

Gospel: **Mt 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel* which means: God-with-us. angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home. So she gave birth to a son and he had not had marital relations with her. Joseph gave him the name of Jesus.

Commentary:

Everyone is excited about Christmas this Sunday. The end of Advent is near. Yet, we're still not there and now is the time to see from a certain distance what is going to happen. Today's Gospel makes us reflect on the relationship between Mary and Joseph. We have little knowledge of their life together. Christian piety has idealized them a lot, perhaps too much. The couple had to live in obscurity. They would regard their son with a mixed feeling of fear, curiosity and hope. Likewise, they had to experience difficult moments. Yet, he was an "upright man", and she, "the handmaid of the Lord". In faith, they were able to get through. Today, they have become our model.

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NBI grills . . .

(From page A21)

description as it appeared on the sketch.

"Only the lack of sufficient evidence at the moment is hindering the NBI from publicly identifying this person as the possible mastermind," the source said.

The "suspect" is under 24-hour surveillance by NBI agents, who are hoping that the person might commit a slip or lead them to new evidence.

Meanwhile, Philip Medel Jr., Blanca's alleged killer, got an early Christmas gift from the NBI yesterday when the bureau gave him his very own room.

Medel, 54, who has spent nearly a month at the NBI-National Capital Regional office since he was released from jail, was transferred to a room on the fifth floor.

Medel has asked to stay at the NBI even after the Justice Department dismissed the murder charge against him. But an NBI official explained to reporters that Medel was transferred because he was staying at the NCR office, where crucial case conferences on the Blanca murder are regularly held.

Medel earlier confessed to police that he was the one who killed Blanca. On Nov. 23, Medel recanted his statement and claimed he was tortured into admitting to the crime.

Twin girls . . .

(From page A21)

Zipagan said the fire started when strong wind knocked down the lamp, spilling burning kerosene on the children's sleeping mat. He said the shanty had no electricity and that the family used only a kerosene lamp.

According to reports, Buena had told her fellow bingo players she intended to keep playing until the next morning to raise the money she needed to buy her daughters—especially the twins—new clothes.

Buena said she would also use her winnings to buy food for *noche buena* (Christmas Eve meal) on Monday.

Zipagan said Buena was having a winning streak when the fire broke out.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Registration of real property—For purposes of the collection of real property taxes, the registered owner of the property is considered the taxpayer. Although petitioners have been in possession of the subject premises by virtue of an unregistered deed of sale, such transaction has no binding effect with respect to third persons who have no knowledge of it. The importance of registration and its binding effect is stated in Section 51 of the Property Registration Decree (PD 1529). Thus, insofar as third persons are concerned, it is the registration of the deed of sale that can validly transfer or convey a person's interest in a property. In the absence of registration, the registered owner whose name appears on the certificate of title is deemed the taxpayer to whom the notice of auction should be sent. Petitioners, therefore, cannot claim to be taxpayers. For this reason, the annulment of the auction sale may not be invoked successfully. [Citations omitted] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Talusan v. Tayag, G.R. No. 133698, April 4, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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3	SUMMER CATCH THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5	MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	HARRY POTTER In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ROCKSTAR In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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8	SERENDIPITY
9	EARTHQUAKE
10	WOLF GIRL

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6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
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5	EARTHQUAKE
6	WOLF GIRL
7 (DTS)	RESERVE
8 (SDDS)	SUMMER CATCH
9 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

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2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	WOLF GIRL
3	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 (SDDS)	RESERVE
5	MUSKETEER
6 (DOLBY)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
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3	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	WOLF GIRL
6	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	RESERVE

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2	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

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3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
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2	

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2	NAIIBANG HAYOP

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2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

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1	MVP
2	DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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2 (DTS)	GLITTER
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY)	MVP
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	SUMMER CATCH

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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3	SOON TO OPEN
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2 (DTS)	

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3	SUMMER CATCH
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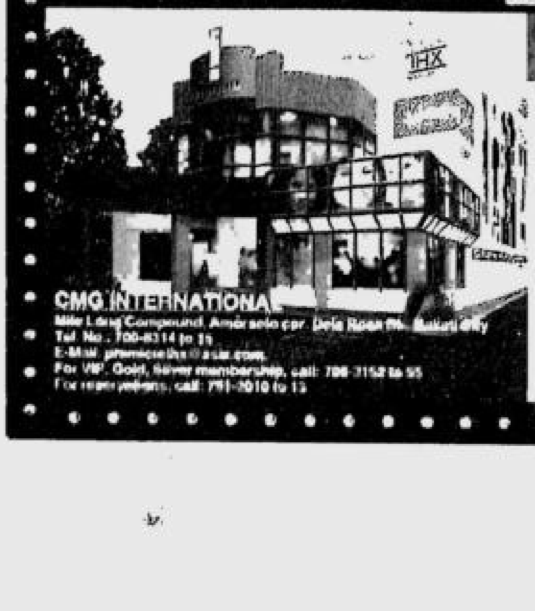
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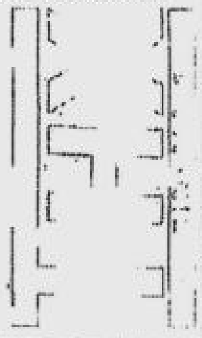

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1	SUMMER CATCH
2	WOLF GIRL
3	THE SCORE
4	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	HARRY POTTER
7	MUSKETEER

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2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	MONSTERS, INC.
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	RUSH HOUR 2

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2	SUMMER CATCH
3	WOLF GIRL
4	WOLF GIRL
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6	MUSKETEER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.

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3	SUMMER CATCH
4	MUSKETEER
5	PISNGI
6	WOLF GIRL

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5	DON'T SAY A WORD
6	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

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2	ROCKSTAR
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EARTHQUAKE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MVP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SUMMER CATCH
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PISNGI
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ODEON-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
ROBEN	PISNGI
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PISNGI
REMAR-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NAIIBANG HAYOP
B	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-2	THE MUSKETEER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE SCORE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	SUTLA (RI)
CINEMA-8	PISNGI
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EARTHQUAKE
CINEMA-12	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
CINEMA-14	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-5	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	BOLD AFFAIR
8	FIRE BALL JACK

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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	ROCKSTAR
3	HARRY POTTER
4	EARTHQUAKE
5	MUSKETEER
6	WOLF GIRL
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	PEARL HARBOR
9	THE SCORE
10	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
3	CLOSED
4	HARRY POTTER
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	THE SCORE
9	EARTHQUAKE
10	CLOSED
11	PEARL HARBOR
12	WOLF GIRL

SM CITY MANILA 5236240

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2	THE SCORE
3	SERENDIPITY
4	SUMMER CATCH
5	ROCKSTAR
6	HARRY POTTER
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8	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
9	MUSKETEER
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11	EARTHQUAKE
12	WOLF GIRL

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5	THE SCORE
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8	MUSKETEER
9	WOLF GIRL
10	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
11	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
12	ALIPIN NG TUKSO

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3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
4	WOLF GIRL

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2	MUSKETEER
3	ROCK STAR
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	THE SCORE
7	SUMMER CATCH
8	HARRY POTTER
9	DREAM GIRL
10	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
11	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
12	MONSTERS, INC.

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2	THE SCORE
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5	GLITTER
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7	JEEPERS CREEPERS

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2	CLOSED
3	ROCKSTAR
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	IRON LADIES
6	DREAM GIRL
7	CLOSED
8	HARRY POTTER

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

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2	THE SCORE
3	SERENDIPITY
4	KING OF GLADIATOR
5	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM SUCAT 8294975

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2	SERENDIPITY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PEARL HARBOR

SM DAVAO

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2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	HARRY POTTER
4	GLITTER
5	ROCK STAR
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Cinema's living treasure rediscovered

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NO DOUBT a movie icon, Armando Goyena was playing a man in women's clothes long before 'Mrs. Doubtfire.'

ONCE an actor always an actor.

After many years away from the big screen, '50s film icon **Armando Goyena** is back.

He plays the lead again, this time in MaQ Films' Metro Manila Film Festival entry, Chito Roño's "Yamashita, The Tiger's Treasure."

Goyena quit show biz in 1954 during his peak at LVN Pictures. In the '90s, however, he did bit parts in two movies, playing dad to **Kris Aquino** in Regal's "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba," directed by the late **Ishmael Bernal** and starring **Christopher de Leon**. He also starred with **Eric Quizon** and **Aiko Melendez** in the romance-drama "Pagdating ng Panahon."

"When my wife (**Pacita Revilla**) was sick for four years, I couldn't accept any film offers," Goyena shares. But last September, he was the only choice of Regal matriarch **Lily Monteverde** and director Roño to play the lead in "Yamashita."

"I was interested in the project so I said yes," Goyena says. "But after three days, I felt that my vertigo started acting up, so I told Mother Lily I had to back out because of health reasons.

"That same day, Chito called me up and convinced me to do the role. I told him I was afraid that in the middle of the shoot, I would get a bad attack of vertigo. We talked for 15 minutes. But eventually, I gave in."

Now 79, Goyena proved a real trouper during the filming. The cast and crew went on location in Batangas and Bataan. With young actor **Danilo Barrios,** Goyena also joined the production team in the US West Coast, where the early scenes of "Yamashita" were filmed.

The three-week shoot took them to Vallejo, Hillsborough, Lake Berryesa near Napa Valley, Daly City and San Francisco.

His only son **Johnny Revilla** joined him in the US trip and even played a cameo role in the movie.

"My daughters didn't want to allow me to travel alone," Goyena says. "Since Johnny was also up for a vacation, he accompanied me.

"I'm very thankful I didn't have any problem with my vertigo during the entire filming. We shot six days in Batangas, five days in Bataan and 12 days in the States."

In "Yamashita," he plays *Lolo* Melo, a wartime witness to the Yamashita caper who leaves his coded wartime diaries in the care of his grandson (Barrios).

From his character's point of view, the film retells in gory detail the atrocities of World War II. He entrusts to his grandson a map in the guise of an old diary, which reveals the location of the treasures.

Goyena notes "Yamashita" is the hardest film he has made since he played a superhero in 1953's "Kapitan Kidlat," the Pinoy counterpart of Captain Marvel.

"My love for acting prevailed and that's why I was able to complete this movie," Goyena says. "(God) gave me the strength to finish it. This is the first time I have been given the opportunity to play a character like this one. I've long wanted to play a role like this.

"Back in those days at LVN, they wouldn't let me play these kinds of roles because I was always a rich guy. **Doña Sisang** didn't want to give me poor-boy roles because she didn't think I would be convincing to play a farmer or a carpenter."

Goyena maintains the best years of his life were those when he was with LVN Pictures, where he did movies with the late director and National Artist **Bert Avellana**.

Goyena, whose real name is **Jose "Pinggoy" Revilla**, started his acting career as a reluctant stage actor, with the late playwright-director **Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero**.

"I was the first Tony Javier when Bert directed **Nick Joaquin**'s 'Portrait of the Artist as Filipino,' which we staged more than 70 times all over the country in 1955," he says.

A commerce graduate of De La Salle College, Goyena did casual jobs before he entered show biz.

"After the war, there was no job for me. Since my father had died, I had to help my mother support the family."

He worked as a night watchman in a factory along General Luna Street in Ermita, near San Marcelino. Then he got a job as manager of a Quiapo department store owned by Greg Araneta, where Guerrero spotted him in the café.

"He wanted me to play the husband in a play and I was stunned by the offer," he recalls. "I was not even in the oratorical contest or the debating team, but he wanted me to act. He said I was perfect for the role."

He went on to do an open-air benefit of "Wanted: A Chaperone" for Army veterans.

"Minutes before the play, I saw the crowd and I wanted to back out. When the curtain went up, they pushed me so I was forced to act. One play came after another with Freddie making me a stage veteran.

"If the gate was good, we went to a *panciteria* after a performance. If it was poor, we only had *siomai* or *siopao.*"

Goyena recalls that one late afternoon, while on a *tranvia* ride to Escolta with Guerrero, the latter's one-man play, "What a Guy," was born.

"I told him in jest, 'Why don't you write a one-man play so we won't have any problems in rehearsing?' Several days later, he called me up and said he was just a few pages away from finishing the script. 'What a Guy' had a three-day run at San Beda and it was never staged again since then."

Because his mother played the card game *panguinge* with Doña Sisang, Goyena was able to approach the LVN producer and he gallantly told her he wanted to be an actor.

"I used to see **Pancho Magalona** on the billboards and I would tell myself, 'If this guy could be in the movies and he was not even a stage actor, then movies would be easy for me,'" Goyena says.

After a long wait, Goyena was given the role of an Army lieutenant in "Puting Bantayog." He played second lead to **Leopoldo Salcedo**, then the king of Philippine movies.

"I know people raised their eyebrows when I got that break," Goyena says. But he went on to do lead roles.

LVN firmed up his love team with **Tessie Quintana**. Together, they appeared in such hits as "Virginia," "Misteryoso,". "Pagtutuos," "David at Goliath," "Hawayana," "Damong Ligaw" and "Isabelita."

"When Tessie and I did 'Tiya Loleng,' they dressed me up as a woman and that's a rather

CINEMA/ A26

GOYENA and Barrios in Chito Roño's "Yamashita."

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Beautiful mental acrobatics on 'Nobel Minds,'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE BBC channel's "Nobel Minds" interview last Dec. 15 enabled viewers to savor the unusual brilliance and creativity of 12 Nobel laureates in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Medicine.

After detailing how they researched or experimented on important scientific problems, the panelists focused on another major consideration: how to keep on going in the face of constant failure.

This led to a redefinition of what is meant by "failure." In the enlightened view of these laureates, failure wasn't necessarily negative in its effect on them. In fact, looking back, they learned much more from their so-called failures than from their successes!

To them, failing was ok as long as they were willing to learn from their mistakes. And as long as they remained excited about the research task at hand.

Needless to say, even non-laureates like us can learn a lot from this upbeat point of view. The trick is to see everything as part of a process, and what is important was not the momentary flub, but the ultimate triumph.

Another key topic was the need for a scientists to look for a way to share the benefits of their important findings with the general public. All too often, scientists have their own private, abstruse language that only the members of their exclusive circle can understand.

And yet, if scientists don't learn to translate their discoveries into laymen's terms, their positive impact on society will be bunted.

The laureates being interviewed certainly didn't have any problem making that democratizing transition. Their discoveries were extremely

BEAUTIFUL/ A26

Ana Roces to marry Mikey Arroyo's future brod in law

By Leah Salterio

ROCES and Montenegro

ANA Roces will tie the knot with Greg Montenegro on Jan. 20, 7 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads their principal sponsors.

Ana—Marinella Adad—is the only girl among the three children of Rene and Carmen Adad. She left show biz for a while to take up hotel and restaurant management at the Isle of Man International School in London.

She owns the La Tavola Italian restaurant on Remedios Street in Malate, Manila.

On TV, she is a mainstay of the GMA 7 sitcom, "Beh Bote Nga."

Greg is the son of German and Charito Montenegro. He is the brother of Angela Montenegro, the fiancée of presidential son Mikey Arroyo.

The reception will be held at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Manila, where Ana once worked as a sales account manager.

After the wedding, Ana and Greg will honeymoon in Bangkok and Phuket in Thailand. In March, they are set to go to Orlando, Florida.

Crowe, Smith . . .

(From page A27)

"Six Feet Under" (Actual Size Films, Greenblatt/Janollari Studios i.a.w. HBO; HBO), "The Sopranos" (Chase Films/Brad Grey TV i.a.w HBO; HBO), "The West Wing" (John Wells Prods. i.a.w. WB TV; NBC).

Best performance by an actress in a TV series (drama)—Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos"), Amy Brenneman ("Judging Amy"), Edie Falco ("The Sopranos"), Jennifer Garner ("Alias"), Lauren Graham ("Gilmore Girls"), Marg Helgenberger ("CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"), Sela Ward ("Once and Again").

Best performance by an actor in a TV series (drama)—Simon Baker ("The Guardian"), James Gandolfini ("The Sopranos"), Peter Krause ("Six Feet Under"), Martin Sheen ("The West Wing"), Kiefer Sutherland ("24")

Best TV series (musical or comedy)—"Ally McBeal," "Frasier," "Friends," "Sex and the City," "Will and Grace."

AFP

WILL SMITH

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DEC. 25	Tue	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 26	Wed			8:00 pm
DEC. 27	Thu			8:00 pm
DEC. 28	Fri			8:00 pm
DEC. 29	Sat	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 30	Sun	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
DEC. 31	Mon		(REST DAY)	
JAN. 1	Tue	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
JAN. 2	Wed			8:00 pm
JAN. 3	Thu			8:00 pm
JAN. 4	Fri			8:00 pm
JAN. 5	Sat	1:00 pm	4:30 pm	8:00 pm
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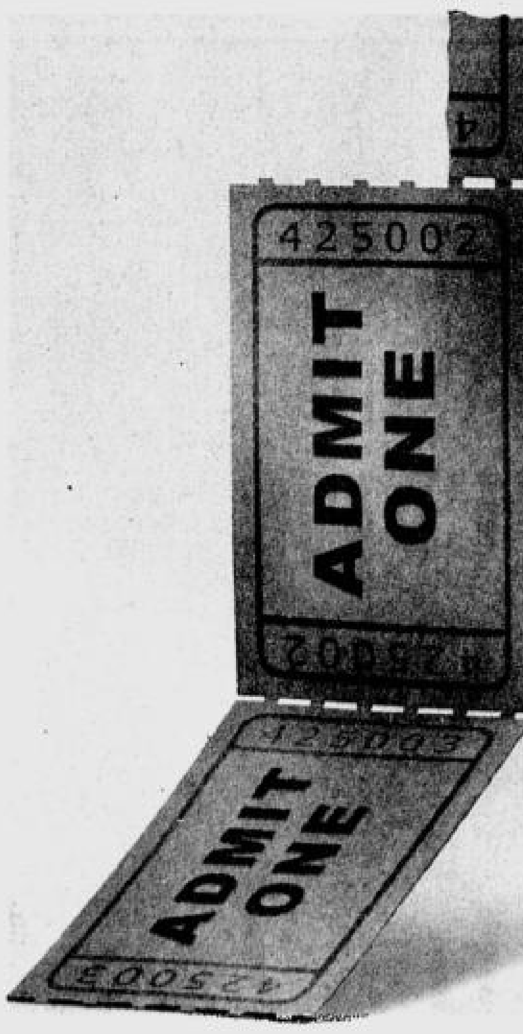

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Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (GP)-715
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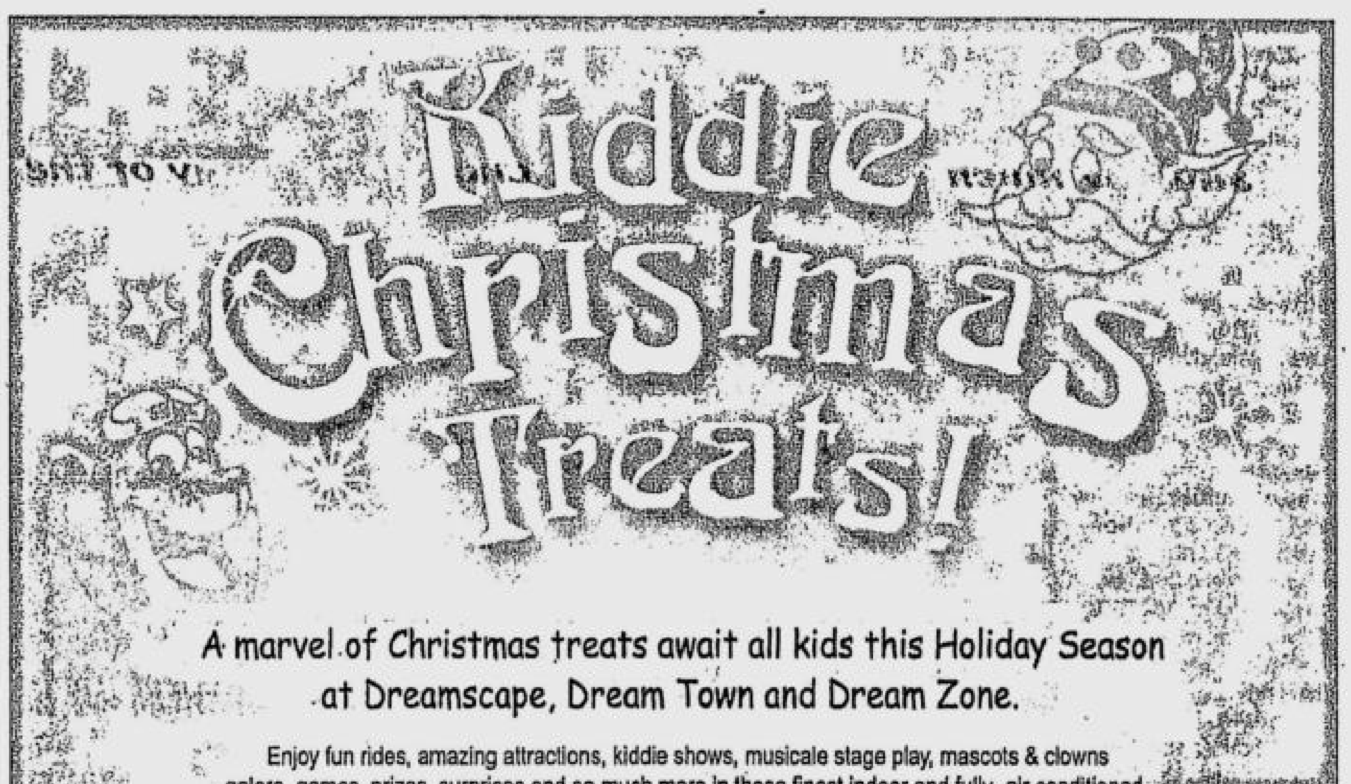

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Lactum

Cinema's living treasure rediscovered

(From page A24)

memorable character," he says. "Even before **Robin Williams** did it in 'Mrs. Doubtfire,' I already did it."

Goyena also starred opposite **Charito Solis, Nida Blanca, Celia Flor** and **Daisy Avellana,** among others.

He made up his own screen name, after his idol **Armand Duvall.** Goyena is his real middle name.

"But there's a real Armando Goyena who is my cousin, based in the US," he says.

For his performance in "Yamashita," Goyena is up for nomination as best actor in the filmfest.

In the '50s, Goyena was nominated for best actor for "Medalyong Perlas." But since the film was a trilogy, the Famas jurors decided to disqualify him due to a technicality—the running time of the movie. That disappointment eventually led Goyena to leave show biz.

Today, Goyena basks in the overwhelming love of his big family. His eight children include former Camay Girl **Maritess** and TV host **Tina Revilla.** Among his 28 grandchildren, only brothers **Mico** and **Bernard Palanca** are in show biz.

Beautiful . . .

(From page A25)

complex and subtle, and yet they knew how to make them not just understandable but also exciting for the TV audience.

Would that other scientists had as much mastery of their fields for them to also communicate clearly with the general public!

The panel discussion next touched on the public's perceived distrust of some scientists and what they are experimenting on, like the controversial cloning of human beings. The laureates acknowledged this mistrust, but went on to hope that viewers would be able to also focus on the less controversial and even more helpful areas of scientific investigation.

For their part, scientists should learn how to communicate their excitement about their work, so the general public can get excited in turn and acknowledge the importance of science in their lives. Also, they should understand the process of scientific investigation, and realize what it should really be about.

Take the current popularity of computers. They are used very extensively, but mainly just for the sourcing and accumulation of knowledge and trivia, not real wisdom.

Finally, the laureates admitted that some scientists have a skeptical attitude regarding the public's ability to adequately understand what scientific research and experimentation are trying to do.

They feel that, because the public doesn't understand the scientific process, it demands certainly from scientists, whereas sometimes, the best that scientists can honestly come up with is a tentative knowledge.

True, this indicates the public's lack of sophistication and its immature impatience with findings that are not quite definite. But scientists still have to find a way to encourage dialogue between them and the rest of the populace.

Thanks to the BBC and "Nobel Minds" for sharing the thoughts and feelings of the best scientists in the world with televiewers in many countries. TV doesn't have to be an idiot box, after all!

Erratum

THE ARTICLE, "Oyo-boy Sotto still not ready to go full-time into show biz," which came out on this section last Friday (12/21/01), was written by Remy M. Umerez. The byline was inadvertently dropped. Our apologies. —*Ed*

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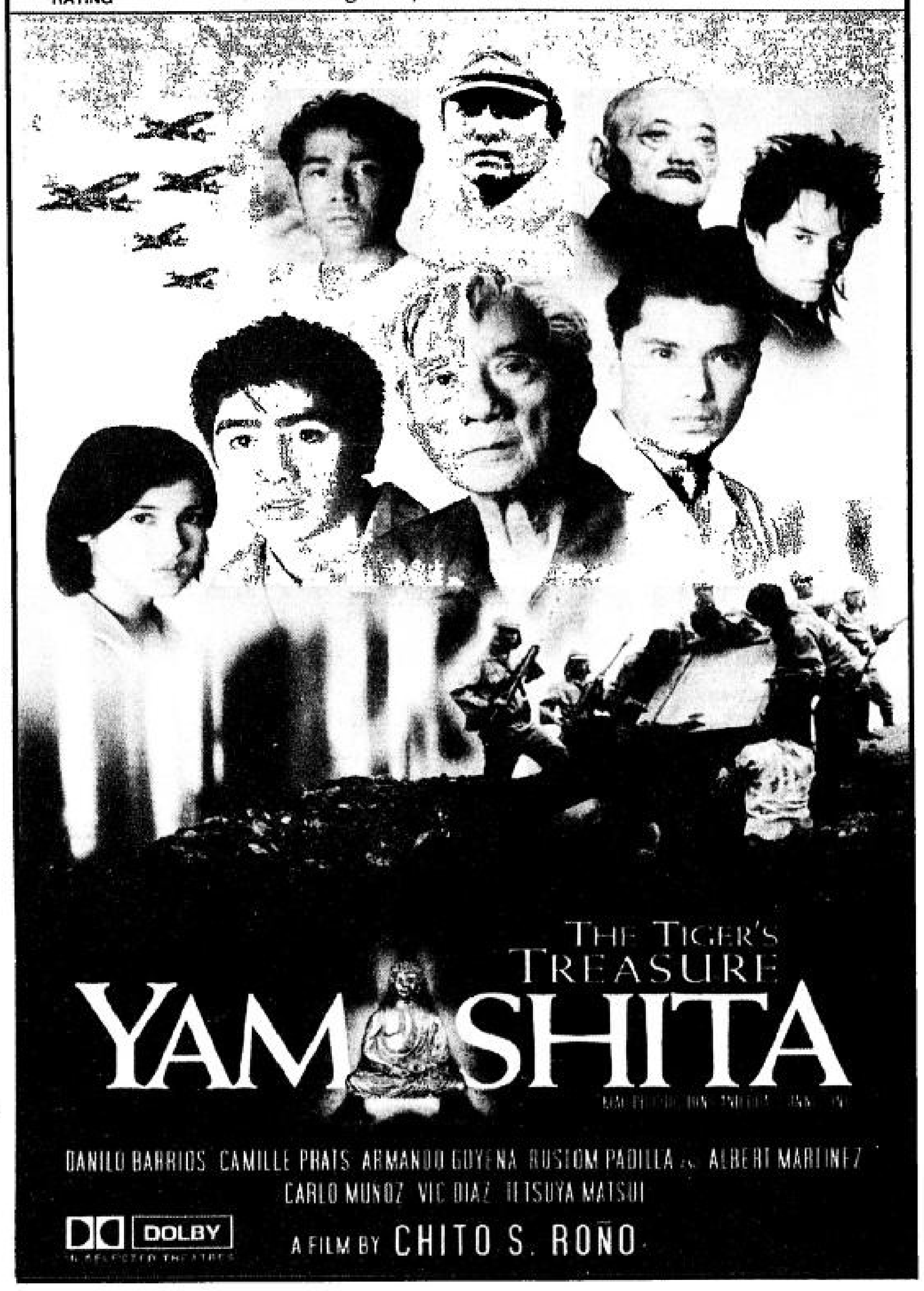
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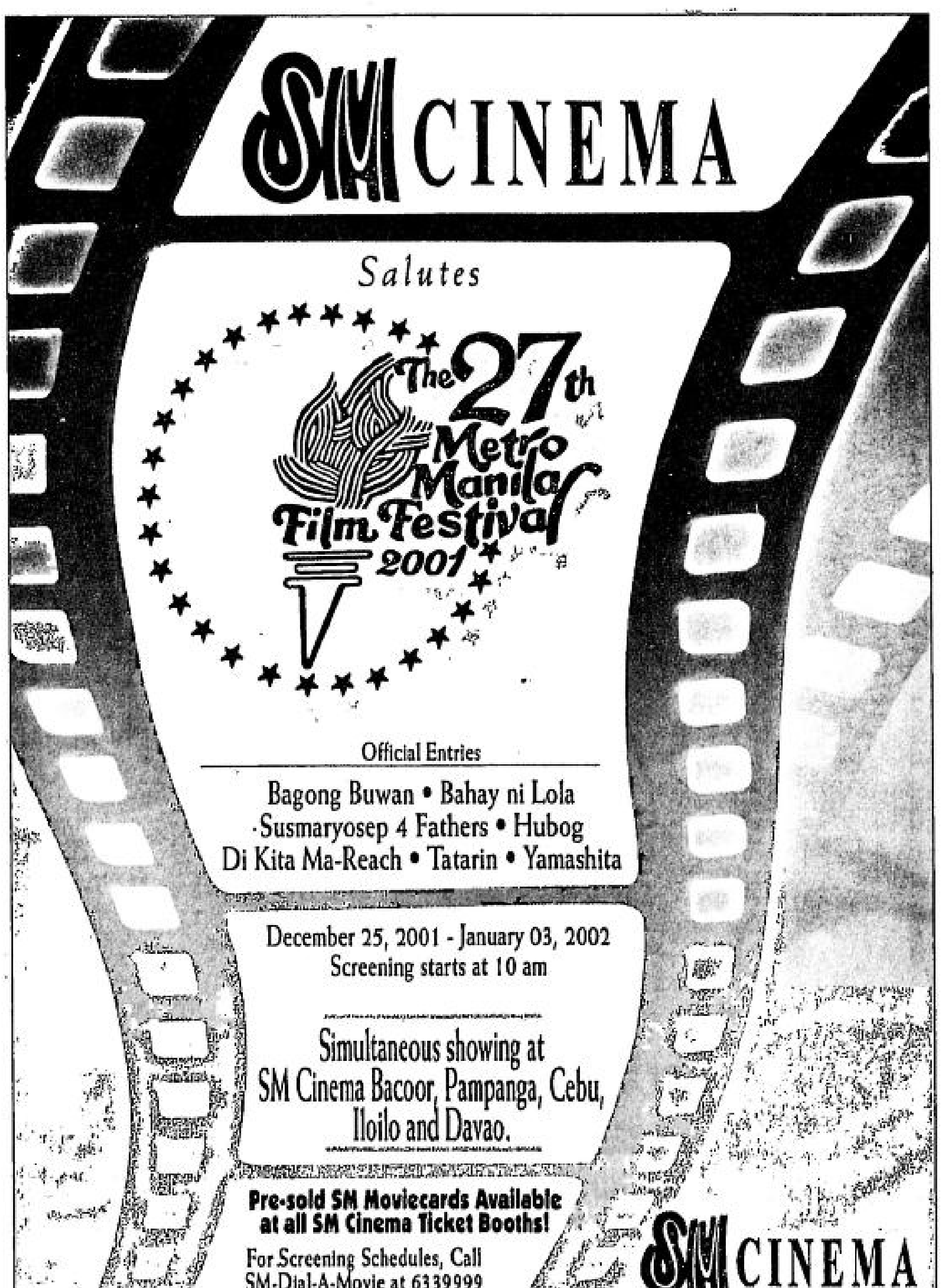
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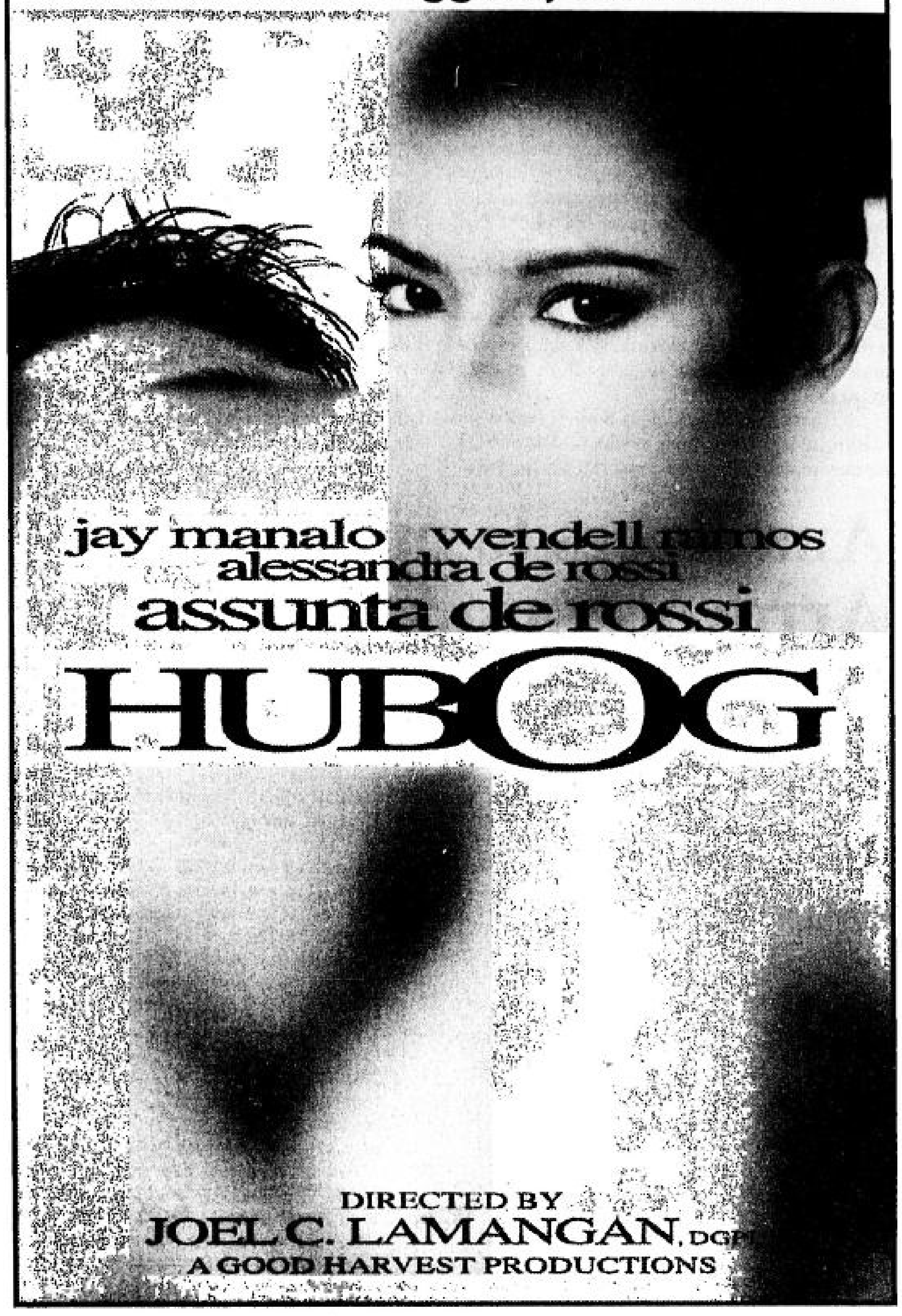

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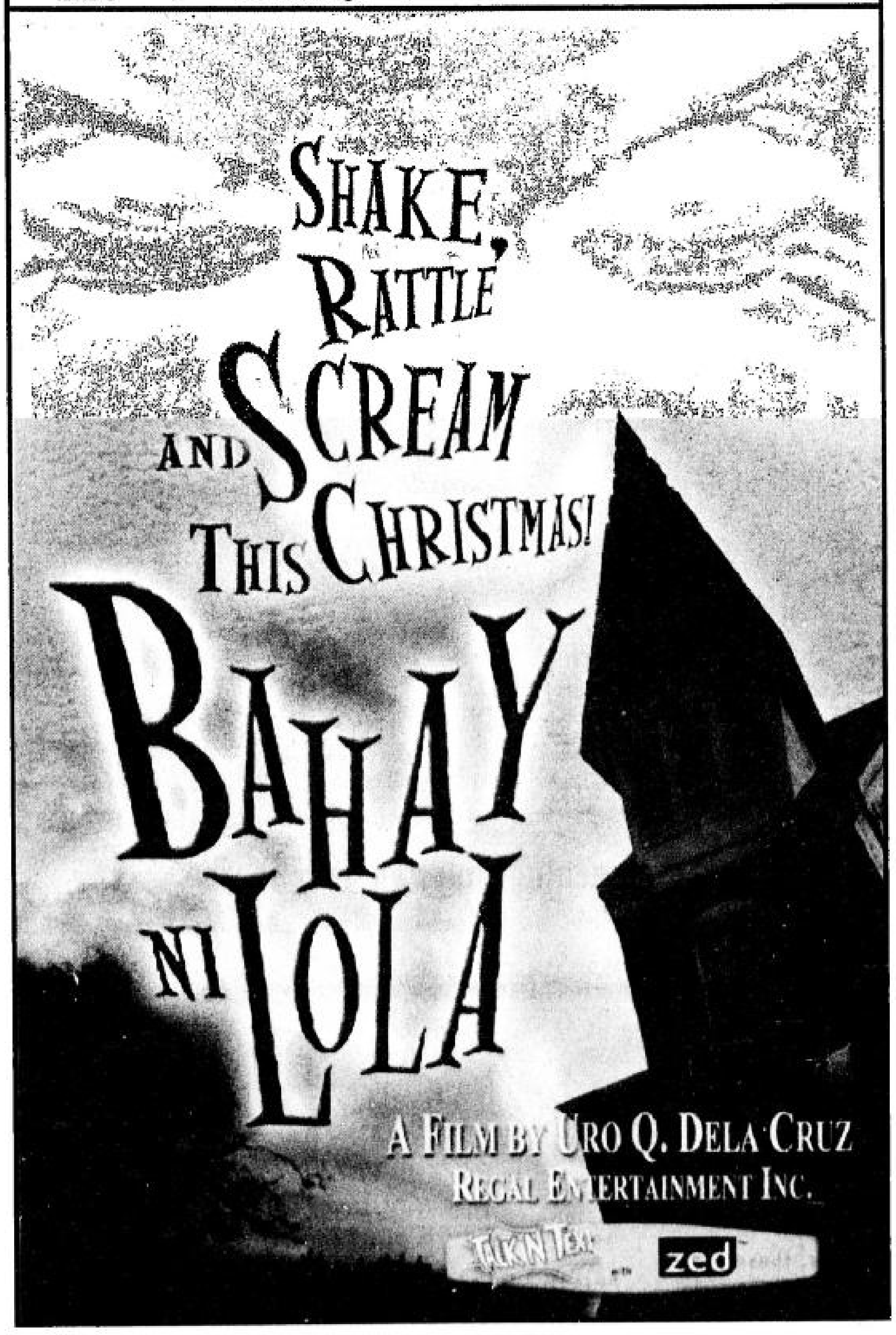
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Crowe, Smith earn Golden Globe nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Herewith is a list of the key nominees for the 59th annual Golden Globe film and TV industry awards.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association unveiled its list of 134 nominees in 13 film and 11 TV categories for the prestigious prize that is to be awarded here on Jan. 20.

Best motion picture (drama)—"A Beautiful Mind" (Imagine Entertainment; Universal Pictures/ DreamWorks), "In the Bedroom" (Good Machine Productions; Miramax Films), "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (Wingnut Films; New Line Cinema), "The Man Who Wasn't There" (Working Title; USA Films), "Mulholland Drive" (Les Films Alain Sarde Asymmetrical Prods.; Universal Pictures/Studio Canal)

Best performance by an actress in a motion picture (drama)—Halle Berry ("Monster's Ball"), Judi Dench ("Iris"), Nicole Kidman ("The Others"), Sissy Spacek ("In the Bedroom"), Tilda Swinton ("The Deep End").

Best performance by an actor in a motion picture (drama)—Russel Crowe ("A Beautiful Mind"), Will Smith ("Ali"), Kevin Spacey ("The Shipping News"), Billy Bob Thornton ("The Man Who Wasn't There"), Denzel Washington" ("Training Day").

Best motion picture (musical or comedy)—"Bridget Jones's Diary" (Working Title Production; Miramax Films), "Gosford Park" (Sand Castle 5/Chicago Films; USA Films), "Legally Blonde" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures), "Moulin Rouge (20th Century Fox; 20th Century Fox), "Shrek" (PDI/DreamWorks Prods.; DreamWorks Pictures)

Best performance by an actress in a motion picture (musical or comedy)—Thora Birch ("Ghost World"), Cate Blanchett ("Bandits"), Nicole Kidman ("Moulin Rouge"), Reese Witherspoon ("Legally Blonde"), Reneé Zellweger ("Bridget Jones's Diary").

Best performance by an actor in a motion picture (musical or comedy)—Gene Hackman ("The Royal Tenenbaums"), Hugh Jackman ("Kate et Leopold"), Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge"), John Cameron Mitchell ("Hedwig and the Angry Itch"), Billy Bob Thornton ("Bandits").

Best foreign language film—"Amelie" (France - from Victoires Production; Miramax Zoe), "Behind the Sun" (Brazil - from Arthur Cohn Productions; Miramax Films), "Monsoon Wedding" (India - IFC Prods./Key Films/Pandora Films/ Paradis Films), "No Man's Land" (Bosnia - Noe Productions; United Artists), "Y Tu Tambien" (Mexico - Anhelo Producciones; IFC Films).

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role in a motion picture—Jennifer Connelly ("A Beautiful Mind"), Cameron Diaz ("Vanilla Sky"), Helen Mirren ("Gosford Park"), Maggie Smith ("Gosford Park"), Marisa Tomei ("In the Bedroom"), Kate Winslet ("Iris").

Best performance by an actor in a supporting role in a motion picture—Jim Broadbent ("Iris"), Steve Buscemi ("Ghost World"), Hayden Christensen ("Life As A House"), Ben Kingsley ("Sexy Beast"), Jude Law ("A.I. Artificial Intelligence"), Jon Voight ("Ali").

Best director (motion picture)—Robert Altman ("Gosford Park"), Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind"), Peter Jackson ("The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"), Baz Luhrmann ("Moulin Rouge"), David Lynch ("Mulholland Drive"), Steven Spielberg ("A.I. Artificial Intelligence)

Best TV series (drama)—"24" (Real Time Prods./Imagine TV i.a.w. 20th Century Fox TV; Fox), "Alias" (Touchstone TV; ABC), "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" (Alliance Atlantis/ CBSP i.a.w. Jerry Bruckheimer Films; CBS),

CROWE/ A25

CROWE gets smart in "A Beautiful Mind."

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SUMMER CATCH - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	RUSH HOUR 2 - P 13 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

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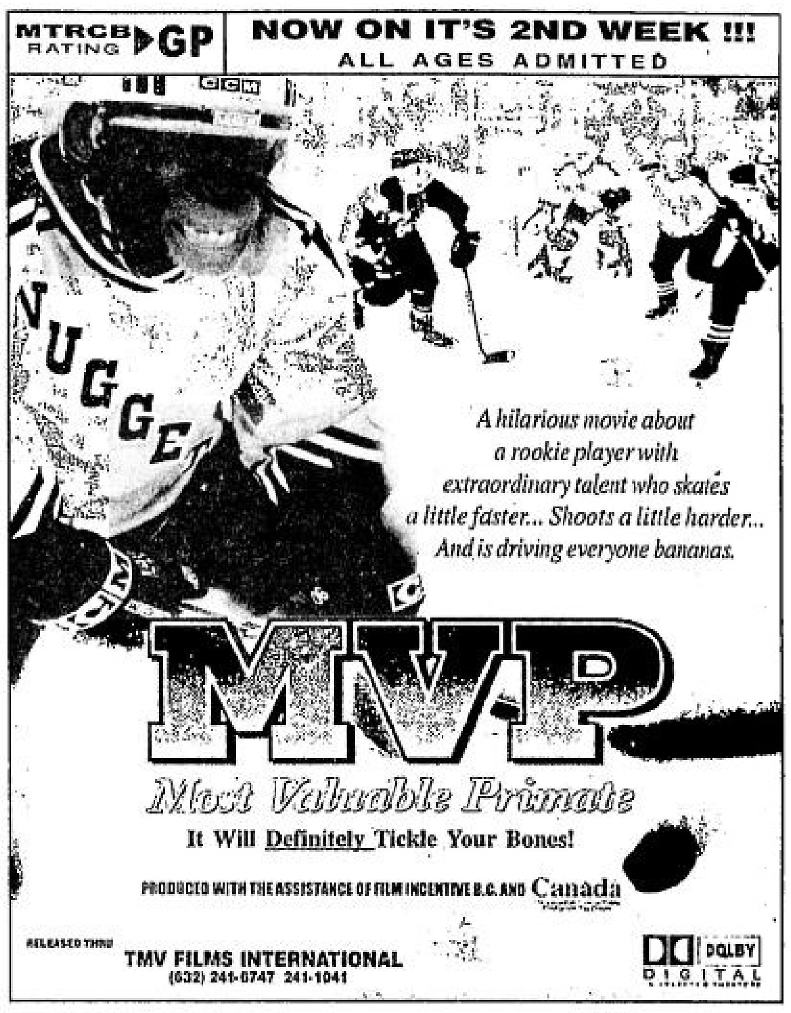
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BATANG WEST SIDE
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starring
Yul Servo, Joel Torre, Gloria Diaz, Angel Aquino & Priscilla Almeda

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During the course of the investigation, the detective discovers dark secrets of the Filipino community. More important, the kid's story - as told be his friends, relatives & witnesses - becomes a conduit towards the detective's eventual confrontation of his dark past: he was a military torturer during the Marcos years.

The film is about the Filipino soul. It is about confronting, critiquing & examining their dark & troubled past, especially the brutal Marcos years. This is the only way they, as people, can move forward.

AWARDS:
Best Actor Award to four actors: Joel Torre, Yul Servo, Arthur Acuña, and Ruben Tiron CINEMANILA 2001
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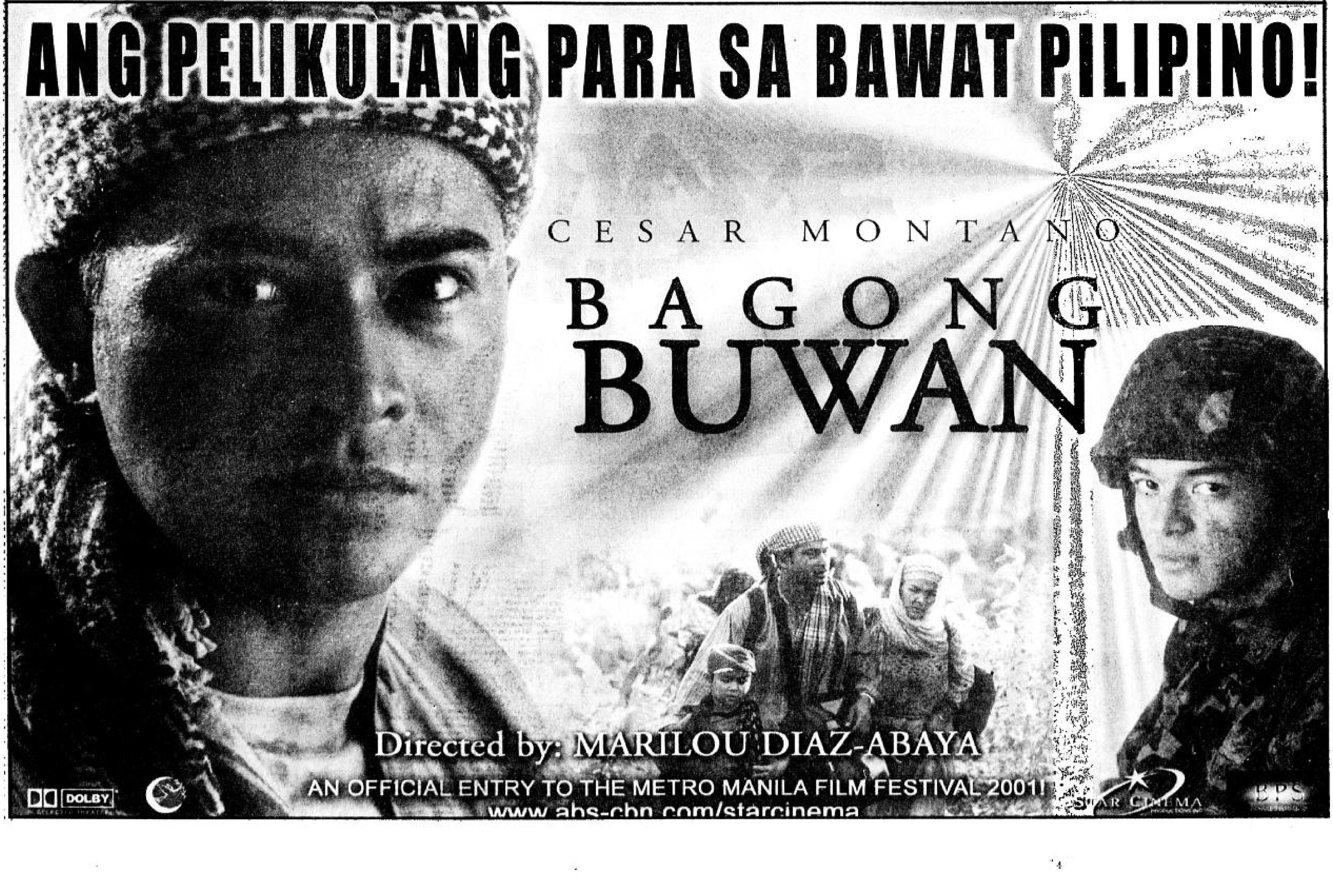
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SundayBIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

What do execs want to give and receive this Christmas?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino
and Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THEY belong to that small group of people who have virtually everything they can wish for, thus, are among the most difficult to give gifts to.

Gifts for these executives usually go the extremes. They are either super expensive or affordable but one of a kind.

SundayBiz took it upon itself to ask the top boys and girls of the business community what their hearts desire.

It is a revelation to realize that most do not want anything material, but good wishes for all.

For next week, we do a follow up and delve into what these leaders wish for in 2002.

Finance head

"A few days of restful and peaceful time with my family," is what Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho wishes for this Christmas.

And Camacho, the richest Cabinet secretary in the Macapagal administration, with a net worth of over P150 million, says he is likely to get it.

He and his family will be off to various in-country sojourns in the next few days that include spending time in their farm in Batangas, Tagaytay and Bukidnon.

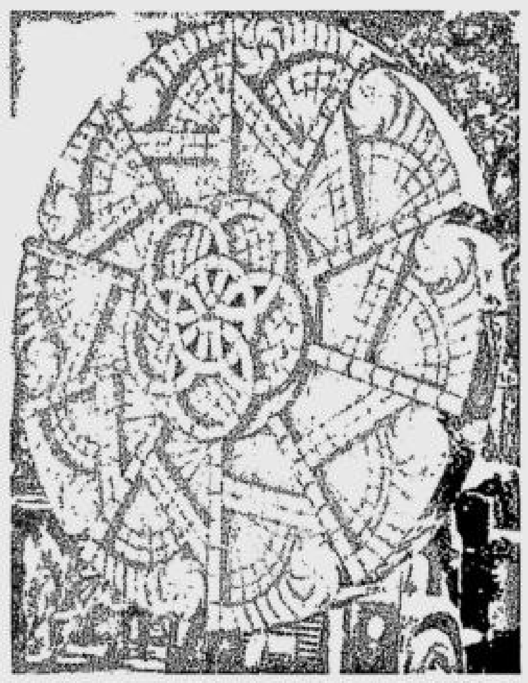
"I will be 100 percent with my family," he says.

Camacho has a big family—six children—and he relishes spending time with them.

Since he joined the government, he hardly has time to be with them during weekdays, but he says that during weekends, even if he takes work

WHAT/B2

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Teyet Pascual and Kim Camacho during more "peaceful" days.



BERT BASA

"PAROL" costs P1,000 to P4,000 each.

Sales are down but 'Parol' making continues

Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—The making and selling of "Pampanga parol" is a year-round business in this province known for PX goods and native cuisine.

Noel Ramos, 51, who has been manufacturing and selling Christmas lanterns since the early 1990s, said most of his customers from January to September are Filipino *balikbayan.*

"There are many *balikbayan* who buy lanterns especially after the Christmas season to bring them to the United States, Canada, Australia and England. We also sell lots of lanterns to *balikbayan* during the school break in the US and England," he said.

Local consumers, on the other hand, usually buy lanterns from October to December.

Ramos, who owns the Capiz Center near the Dau tollgate of the North Luzon Expressway, said he used to manufacture and sell about 700 lanterns a year until 1997.

In the succeeding years, however, his sales went down to only 500 lanterns due to the economic crisis.

Compared with last year, Ramos said the lantern business is slower this year. He said sales dropped by 20 to 30 percent due to the world economic recession aggravated by the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US.

Despite the sluggish business, however, Ramos said his average sale is P200,000 a year.

Christmas lanterns popular among *balikbayan* are those made from *capiz* (shell). The attractive and durable *capiz*-made lanterns can be bought from P1,000 (equipped with six light bulbs) to P4,000 (26 light bulbs) while those made from multi-colored cellophane sell from P300 (six light bulbs) to P1,500 (21 light bulbs).

Ramos' customers include exporters in Metro Manila and vendors who display the colorful lanterns along the highways of Angeles and San Fernando cities and Mabalacat town.

He also manufactures lanterns for wholesalers in San Fernando, which is known as the "Parol capital" of Pampanga.

Although the pioneer lantern makers are from San Fernando, most manufacturers of *capiz*-made lanterns are from Mabalacat, Ramos said.

"The lanterns with paper and plastic coverings originated from San Fernando but the *capiz* lanterns were introduced by lantern makers in Mabalacat," he said.

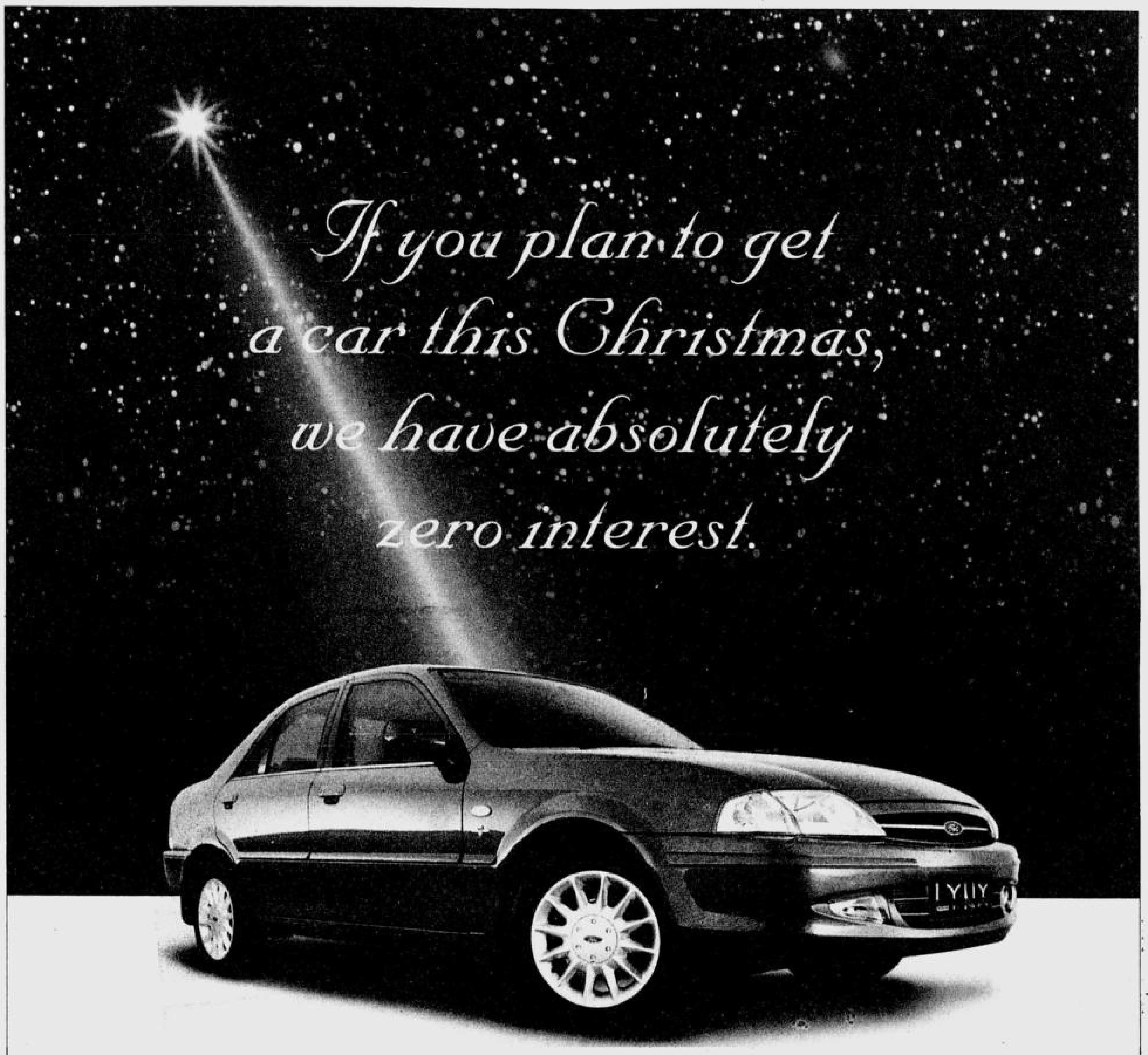
Manufacturers and traders of Pampanga parol do not advertise their products. They rely on display and referrals as a marketing strategy.

Ramos said the best way to market a product is "to make sure that it has high quality and good looks."

He lamented that wholesalers earn a lot from sale of Christmas lanterns in he province. He said manufacturers usually get only a 30-percent return in their investments and need a considerable amount of capital to produce high quality lanterns.

Before the Christmas season, backyard lantern makers in the province usually have to borrow money from various sources, including moneylenders and loan sharks.

"In my case, I was able to invest P450,000 when I started in the business. I think you have to have at least half a million pesos before you can start a business like this," he said.



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(0)917 794-9564, (0)917 833-1545, (0)917 812-3528

Thank you for your continued valued support.

More than just holiday cheer for bank's school

THIS Christmas, 2000 students of Esteban Abada Elementary School, under HSBC's "Better Schools for Brighter Futures" program, will receive gifts that will last beyond Christmas day, and will benefit students yet to come.

Students from this low-performing public school, recently transformed into a Model-of-Excellence School, are enjoying the new facilities that the bank had constructed mid this year.

They look forward to their weekly visits to the new library, computer room, preschool and toy library. Teachers animate classroom lessons with new methods and creative techniques learned in recent training sessions.

This December, as part of the Bank's continuing commitment to help provide quality education to less privileged children, it is giving away specially designed holiday bookmarks to accountholders who visit any HSBC or HSBC Savings branch.

Each bookmark comes with a pledge from the Bank to donate more books in the customers' name to the school's new library.

Bigger and better news recently came from the Bank's Head Office in the UK, from no less than Sir John Bond, chair of the HSBC Group.

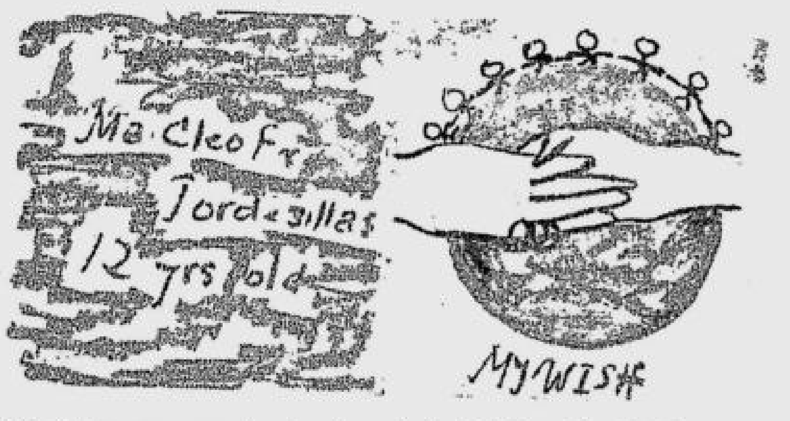
Among all the other educational programs the HSBC Group is supporting worldwide, Esteban Abada was chosen as one of the recipients of a 30,000 pounds sterling donation (estimated more than P2 million), customary of the HSBC Group, in lieu of sending out corporate Christmas cards.

The donation will be managed by HSBC in Manila for a project mutually agreed upon by both parties. Initial plans include a special education center for gifted children in Quezon City.

"We were very pleased to learn about this additional donation to Esteban Abada by the HSBC Group as part of the Bank's global Christmas celebration. It means that in the Philippines, we are doing meaningful work for the students of the school and we hope that our modest contribution will have a lasting impact on their learning experience," said Paul Lawrence, chief executive of ricer of HSBC in the Philippines.

Visitors of The Enterprise Center (TEC), where the Bank's special charity tree is displayed, will get a glimpse of Esteban Abada in photos of the students at work and their handmade Christmas cards with their wishes for the season.

The HSBC Group supports programs in education and the environment in the communities where it operates.



ONE of the many works of art made by Esteban Abada Elementary School's students.

What do execs want to give and receive this Christmas?

(From page B1)

home, he makes sure he spends time with the family.

What does he want to give this Christmas?

"I want to give to the country as much of my attention, skills and dedication. I want to have the stamina needed for me to continue serving as energetically and with as much devotion as I can," Camacho says.

Despite the controversies he was thrown into and the deprivation of privacy, not to mention time, Camacho says he feels fulfilled and rewarded in his current job.

Before he joined the government, Camacho was with the Deutsche Bank and before that with Bankers Trust. His salary level was that of a foreign banker.

Greg D. Garcia, president of Entertainment Network, the group which brought in CNBC, the business news channel, and former head of the Hemisphere Leo Burnett Advertising Agency, says, "I want to receive something I've always wanted during my childhood days (and even now!) but never got: a Lionel train set with long winding tracks and a replica of a small town.

What does he want to give?

"A fabulous party for all the friends, siblings and relatives I've loved through the years. It will be an all-expense trip to Boracay with breakfast, lunch and dinner served on the beach, catered by my favorite restaurants. Complete it with music by a string quartet for breakfast, an orchestra for lunch and the Hotdog band for dinner.

Filemon T. Berba, managing director of the Ayala group, says he is not one to want receiving anything for Christmas, rather, he wants to share some of what he has to the less fortunate.

"Instead of spending for parties, we try to give something back and help people who need it like orphans. I do not give to individuals but to groups that need help," Berba says.

John Philip S. Orbeta, Global practice director of Watson Wyatt Philippines, wants good health for him and his family.

"I hope that there will be no accidents for the New Year for example. You can never really be sure," Orbeta says.

He is also happy that he will not travel anywhere over the holidays so he is bent on giving his time and his attention to those who mean the most to him, like his family.

"This is really what I want to give because I am always out," Orbeta says.

Richard Riley, area manager of the Shangri-La Hotel group and the general manager of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, hopes for only the best for the Filipinos.

"I only want to give my best wishes to all and hope for the same in return," Riley adds.

Alex Recto, president of Amon Marketing, also goes beyond the material world.

JOY's wish is to go to Europe, but she'll settle for spa treatments

"What I really want to receive for Christmas is to see my family and people at work appreciate what they have, be at peace with themselves and happy where they are," Recto says.

As for his gift, Recto says he wants to give something that does not have a price tag. He says it is more important for him to know that he is able to teach his people and family something they never knew before, or affect their lives in a positive way.

"I want to give something that is not materialistic," Recto adds.

Danny Gozo, associate director and head, external relations, of Ayala Corp., wants a tip on where terrorist Osama Bin Laden is hiding.

"The gift I will give is to invest the $25 million reward in the stock market to perk it up!" he says.

Public relations practitioner Joy L. Buensalido says, "My wish gift is an all-expense-paid trip to my choice of countries in Europe on the dates that are convenient to me. But to be more realistic, a whole day of pampering beauty treatments at any spa (with all the works) will make me very happy.

"The gift I'd like to give (if I could), is to treat all volunteers—catechists and the young people they are teaching, to a free concert featuring Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano and the Trumpets talents who will sing/play only for them (calling Audie Gemora)," she adds.

Ed Tamayo, SVP of AMA Publicis, says he already got his best Christmas gift nine years ago, "my kind, funny, patient, smart, sexy, lovely wife."

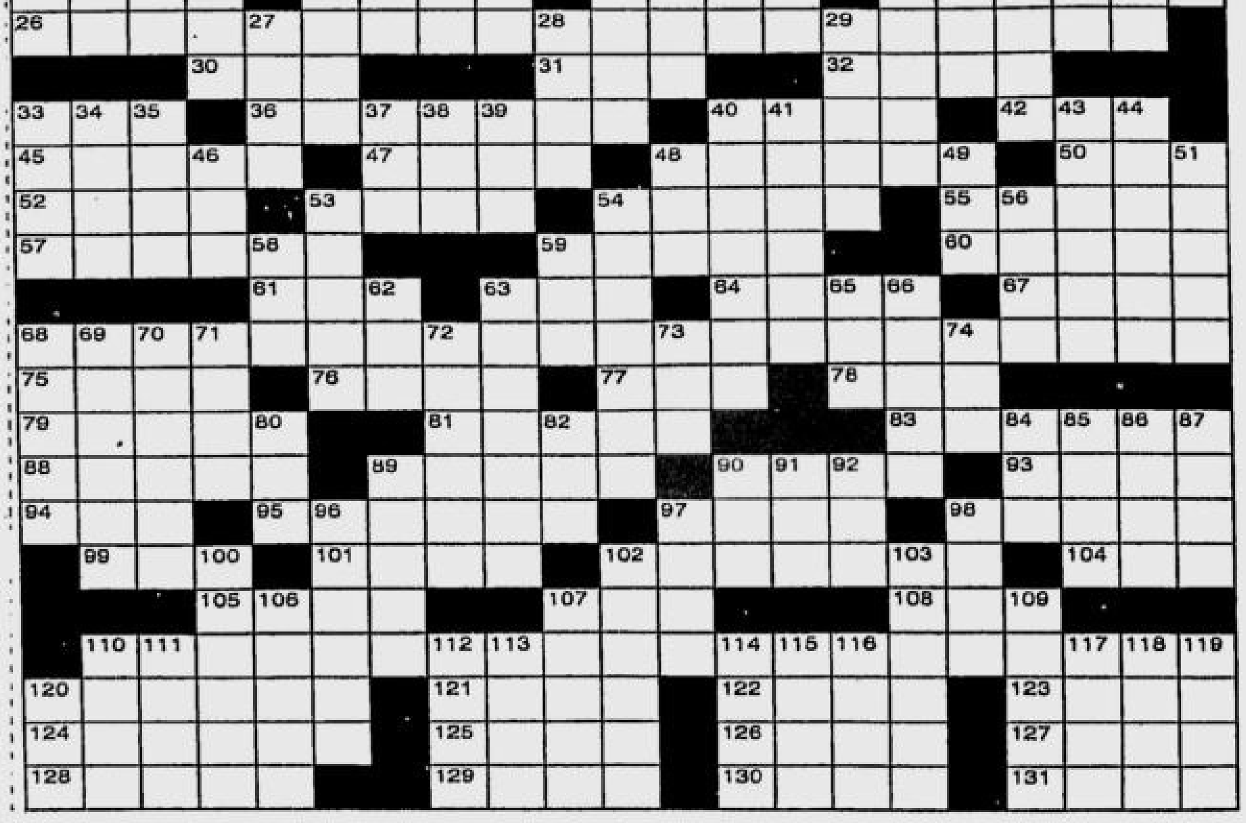
His wish is to be able to bring her on a long trip to Europe but they are going home to Cagayan de Oro this Christmas to be with his family.

ALL CNBC's Greg Garcia III wants for Christmas is a train set.

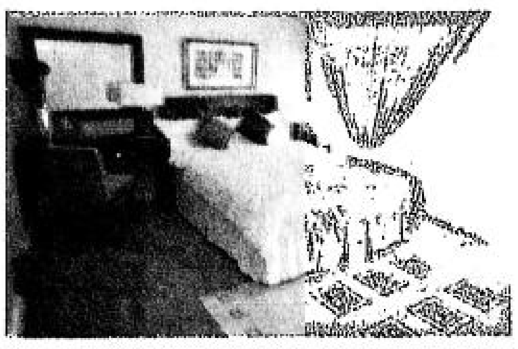
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

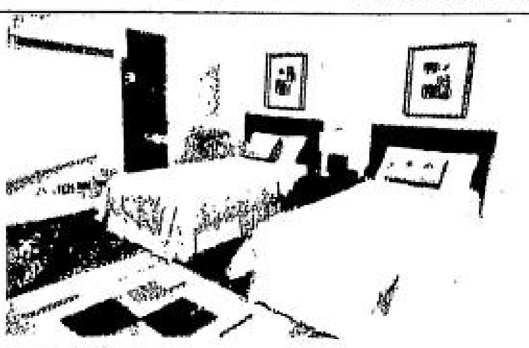
ACROSS
1 Sock spot
5 Alkali's opposite
9 Not quite closed
13 Long-legged wader
18 New Testament book
19 Out-of-this-world org.
20 Bare
21 Placid
22 Lot size
23 Mettle
24 High spirits
25 Make possible
26 Riddle: Part 1
30 "Tell — No" ('65 hit)
31 Cookbook phrase
32 Soft cheese
33 "— vous plait"
36 Curious Greek
40 Navigation hazard
42 CSA soldier
45 Fuss before a mirror
47 Lug
48 Olympian Matt
50 Holiday ending
52 Part of EMT
53 Kaput
54 Metallic mixture
55 Haberdashery item
57 Coffee accompaniment
59 Interrupt
60 Mediterranean island
61 Wrath
63 Scoundrel
64 Tree house?
67 Fashionable Frenchman
68 Riddle: Part 2
75 Spirit
76 "— Dinah" ('58 hit)
77 — -relief
78 Crafty
79 Make another bow
81 Bald bird
83 Cop some z's
88 Madonna role
89 Kovacs or Pyle
90 — Morgana
93 Wharf
94 Pro — (for now)
95 It's on the bee's knees
97 Swampland
98 Word with Clara, Monica, or Barbara
99 Velvet feature
101 Beseeched
102 Presidential advisers
104 Herriman's "Krazy —"
105 Something to skip?
107 Guy's counterpart
108 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
110 Answer to riddle
120 Appetite stimulants
121 Lofty
122 Hordes of humpbacks
123 Head set?
124 Respect
125 Actor Ray
126 Mythical vessel
127 Sheltered, at sea
128 "Die Fledermaus" maid
129 Deli order
130 Rock hound?
131 — up (admit)

DOWN
1 Defect
2 "That hurts!"
3 Prudhomme veggie
4 Saw features
5 Mohair
6 Keeping
7 Horus' mom
8 Base stuff?
9 Lansbury or Davis
10 Raul of "The Addams Family"
11 Mideastern gulf
12 Oliver of "Gladiator"
13 Rousseau or Matisse
14 Cross-worder's need
15 First name in country
16 Just
17 Born
21 Become angry
27 Johnny of "From Hell"
28 Seldom seen
29 Hard wood
33 Risked a ticket
34 Cookbook author Rombauer
35 Mortgage, e.g.
37 To the — degree
38 TV's "Scooby- —"
39 Baseball's "Master Melvin"
40 Some may be iron
41 — Tunes
43 Designer Pucci
44 Hungarian composer
46 Med. test
48 Deli order
49 Doctrine
51 Gawk
53 Bit
54 Sufficiently loud
56 Muslim pilgrimage
58 Round Table title
59 "Silent" president
62 Summer, to Seurat
63 Swept and scoured
65 "Help, Hornblower!"
66 Oklahoma city
68 Tours topper
69 Dress size
70 Shrine site
71 Step — (hurry)
72 Swimmer Gertrude
73 Dundee denial
74 Writer Rand
80 "The Raven" monogram
82 Bar supply
84 — -Locka, FL
85 Sty cry
86 Catherine — -Jones
87 Part of Q.E.D.
89 Barkin or Burstyn
90 Petty prevarication
91 White House spokesman Fleischer
92 Perfect score
96 Block
97 Shopper's Shangri-la
98 Doe's darling
100 Earliest
102 Immature
103 Bright inventor?
106 Missouri feeder
107 Rigoletto's daughter
109 Farm sight
110 Walked
111 PC key
112 Homeric characters
113 TV's "— $treet Week"
114 Tiff
115 Folk tall?
116 Finish the lawn
117 Connecticut campus
118 Smeltery stuff
119 Applications
120 "Gotcha!"



ANSWER ON PAGE B12


THE FRASER Place rooms conform with the tropical Zen theme of the serviced apartments.


A TYPICAL guest room of the Fraser Place.

THE TYPICAL three-bedroom unit even comes with a separate family room.

A new way to stay

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE LAST thing that expatriates or long-staying visitors want when they come to a new place is to be burdened by things such as paying utilities, getting a maid service or even eating hotel food day in and day out.

But many long-term travelers or foreign visitors are left doing just that because traditionally, the companies they work for place them in either a deluxe hotel or a big house or apartment in one of the plush villages.

The growing need for alternative accommodations gave rise to the entry of serviced apartments in the metropolis. Some are in the Ortigas business district while others are in Makati.

Adding to the list is the Fraser Place Serviced Residences in Makati City, a twin-tower property development on Valero Street in Salcedo Village, Makati City, which is slated to open its doors by end-March or early April.

Fraser general manager Carlo Gomez says there is still room for serviced apartments in Metro Manila as more and more travelers want bigger and more homey accommodations, especially for those staying for more than just a few days.

Gomez says this explains why serviced apartments in the Philippines are enjoying healthy occupancy levels compared with ordinary hotels. One reason for this, he says, is that the base market for the hospitality industry is really the long-staying guests.

"There is a market for serviced apartments because companies, for instance, can lease for a year to service their visiting officials or consultants. We believe that serviced apartments can provide better value for these companies compared with a hotel," he says.

"When you include all the costs of living in a house, such as utilities and maid's service, I believe our prices can compete and then we can offer more services. We can even cook for the guests if they want," Gomez adds.

Fraser Place goes for the tropical-Zen look for its model, three-bedroom suite. This combines function with design with not too much clutter. It also comes with a spacious living area, guest rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, a family room and even a study where the executive can do his memos and type on his computer.

The serviced apartment will also have a business center with office suites and private work stations; meeting facilities, resident's lounge, baby-sitting service, nursery and day care center, playroom and wading pool, gym and sauna and even a medical and dental clinic.

Other serviced apartments basically have the same facilities but Fraser Place differentiates itself from others by allowing guests who book for at least a year to dictate their own interior decoration, thus, making them feel more at home.

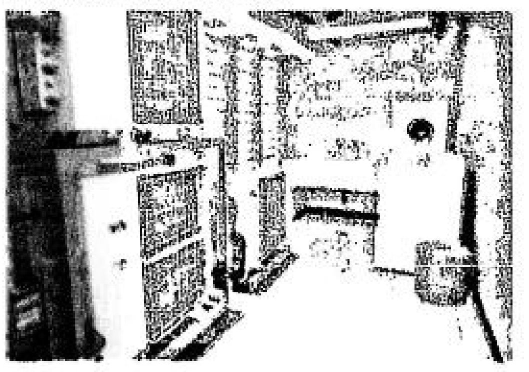
"We also invested a lot on security because guests demand privacy and safety. We have cameras, for instance, and a video phone installed in the units," Gomez says.

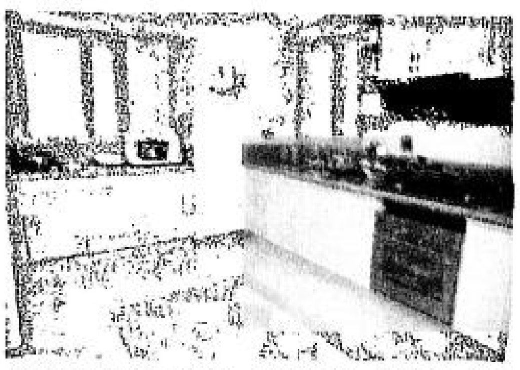
Last but not least, Gomez says Fraser will carve its niche in the market by offering guests service above what is prevailing in the market.

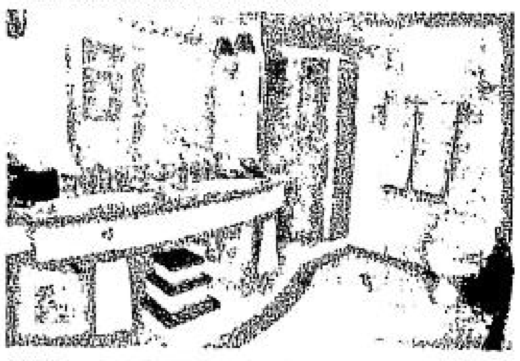
The Fraser Place is the first project in the Philippines of management company, Fraser Serviced Residences Philippine Inc., a subsidiary of Singapore-based Fraser Serviced Residences Pte. Ltd.

If the economics call for it, there are plans to put up additional serviced apartments, probably outside Metro Manila.

GUESTS who book for at least a year can ask the hotel to execute their own interior design.


THE FRASER Place Serviced Residences even thought of ample utility space when it designed the units.


THE UNITS come equipped with a full-service kitchen. Guests can request hotel staff to cook food for them.


THE MASTER bedroom's spacious bathroom with separate shower stall.

THE DINING room

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

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- MEGA CELLULAR NETWORK the sole distributor and service center of MAXON cellphones as Repair Technician of all brands of cellphones-level 2.
- INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (NEXTEL) as pioneer, Head Technician & Product Trainor.
- CELLULAR TECHNOLOGY the 5-star and pioneer in cellphone and cordless phone repair as Senior Technician.
- SMARTNET PHILIPPINES authorized MOTOROLA Service Center Cellfix trainor was trained & certified by Service Manager.
- READ RITE - one of the biggest factory in Milpitas California engaged in the manufacture of ESD sensitive micro-chip parts. Cellfix trainor worked here as trainor of ESD and had trained 10,000 employees He worked as Auditor, Quality Controller and Certified ESD Technician
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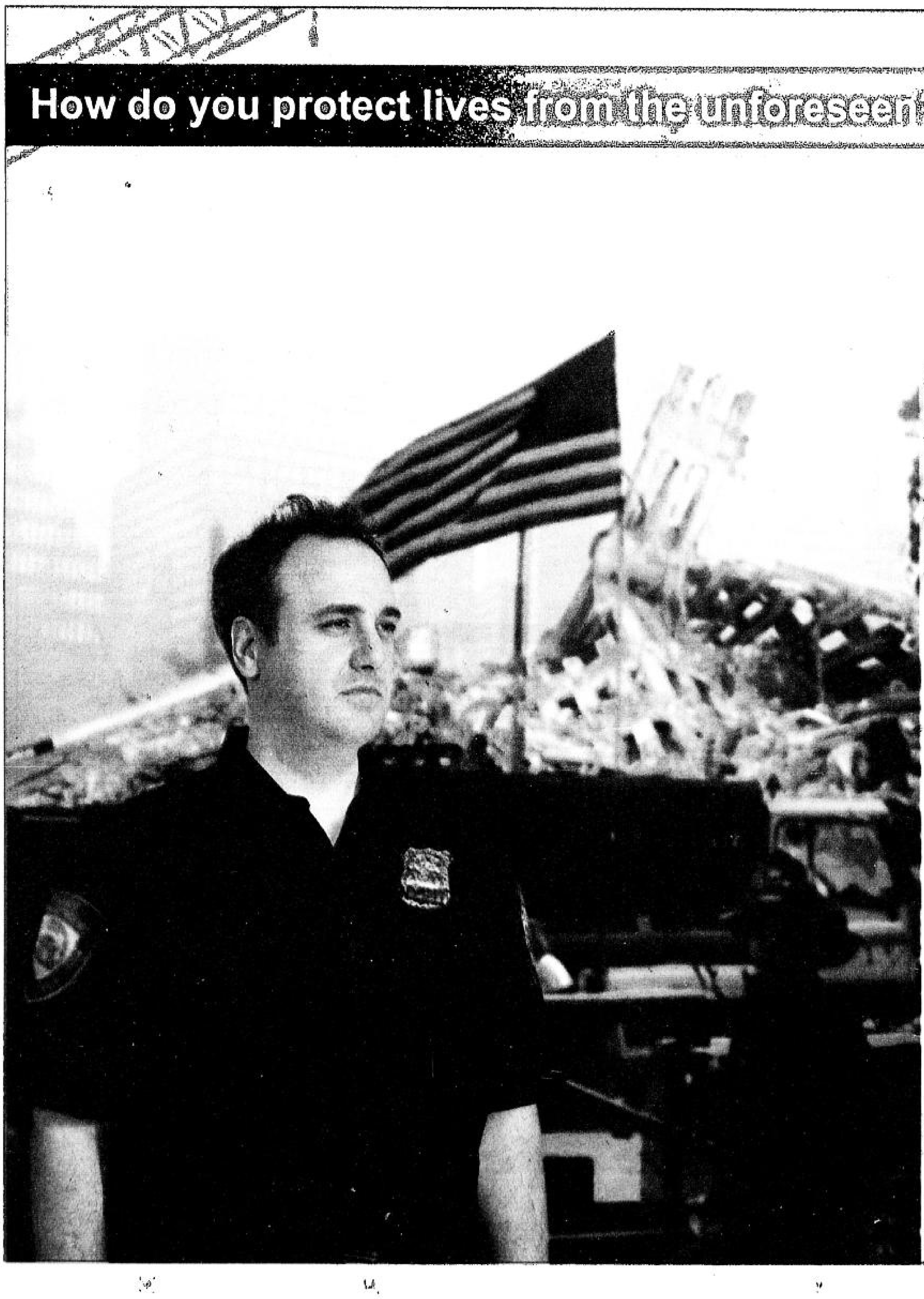
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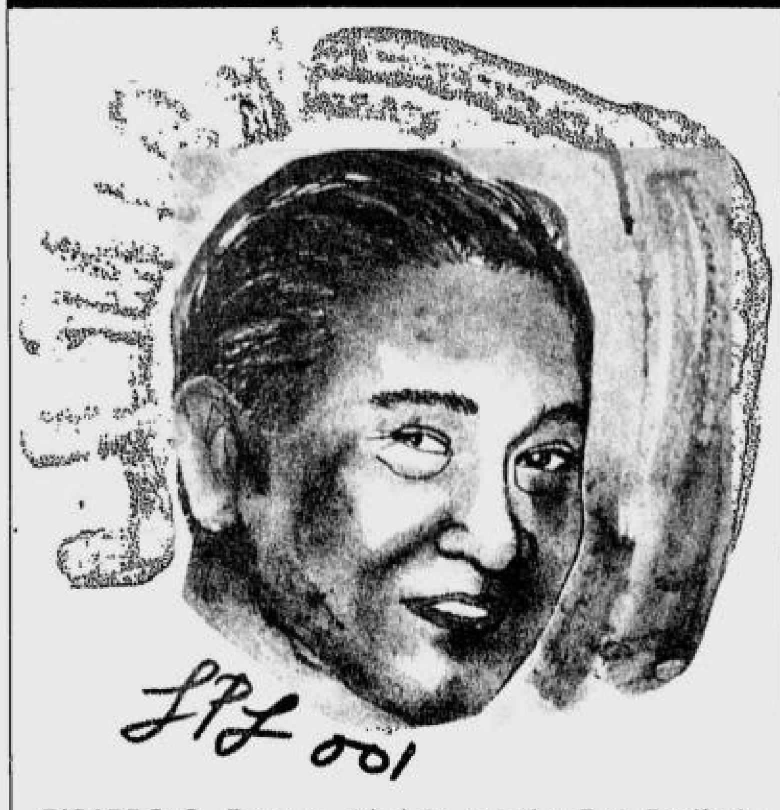
IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE



RICARDO S. Pascua tried to get the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. to fulfill its mission of creating a "Global City" within the former Fort Bonifacio military base.
Now, he is on leave as he is in talks to form a new group that wants to take over the development of the sprawling real estate property.

PRESENT during the media launch were (from left): Finnish Ambassador Raimo Anttola; National Telecommunications Head Eliseo Rio Jr.; Beneon president Jorma Nieminem; Multitel Int'l legal counsel Atty. Raoul Creencia; and CEO of Cellmode International Mr. Passi Riitinen.

Mavericks (or 'poor fits') in firms trigger change

"Tempered Radicals"
By Debra E. Meyerson
Harvard Business School Press, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

WE know some of them—occupying positions of responsibility among the Top 1,000 corporations or wielding influence in the corridors of power. They are the "activists" in an organizational community, seeming "poor fits" that cannot somehow be assimilated in the dominant culture.

He could be an environmental activist in a power generation company. On one hand, management could not make heads or tails about him, but, on the other, management seeks his insight into the phenomenon of a protest group which has raised an issue that couldn't seem to go away.

She could be a feminist advocate in an engineering firm whose culture is defined by "male chauvinists." Would she be co-opted into the dominant behavior and thus give up her commitment to a larger cause, or would she be a necessary gadfly pricking the conscience and pride of self-satisfied males?

How many of these mavericks survive? And how many give up the fight and melt into the solvent of the majority, losing identity, swallowing their pride and being untrue to themselves?

This is doubtless a riveting subject. And this is the subject of "Tempered Radicals," subtitled "How People Use Difference to Inspire Change at Work."

It deals with "poor fits" in the organization, whose values and interests are at odds with the dominant culture.

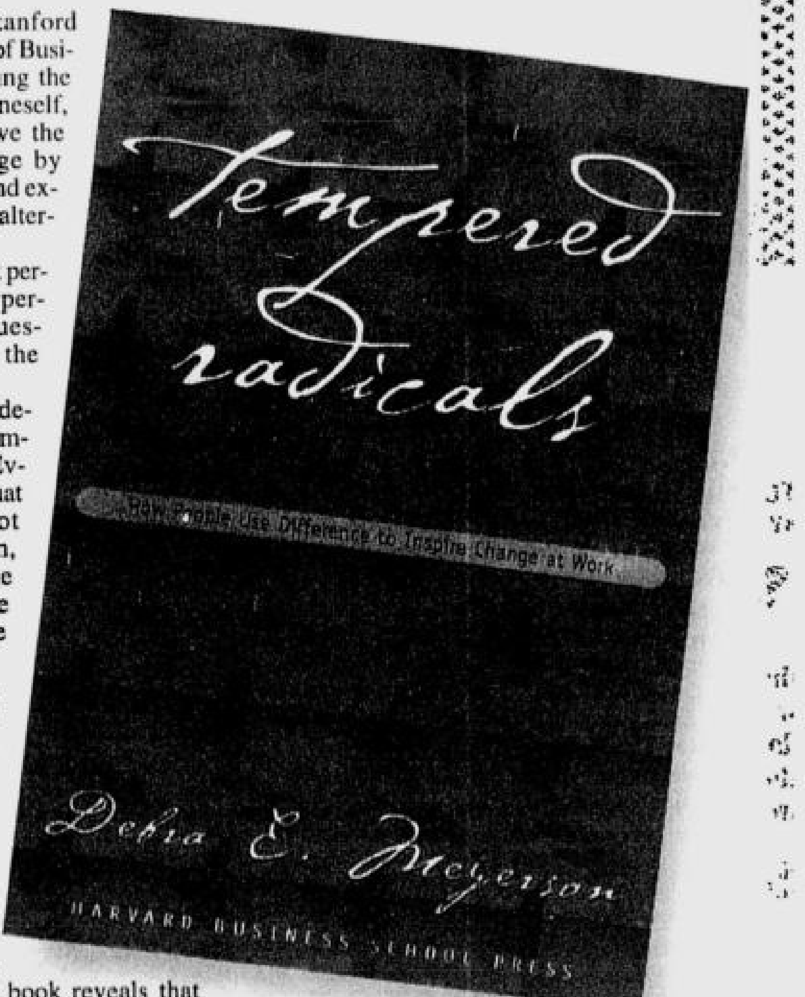
Are they useful at all to organizations, which must run like a well-oiled machine?

Author Debra E. Meyerson, professor of organizational behavior at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, points out: "By asserting the non-conforming aspects of oneself, the tempered radical can pave the way for learning and change by questioning current practice and expectations and providing an alternative."

That is because this activist person brings an entirely new perspective, asks disturbing questions—and therefore paves the way for new ideas.

Remember the child who declared the truth that the "the emperor had no clothes on"? Everyone in the kingdom knew that the ruler did not have anything on, but there was one boy who had the courage to tell the truth.

This is typical in the corporate world. Conformists would rather play safe, especially when the boss is espousing a "great" idea. It takes a non-conformist to contest such an idea. It is always a risky proposition. But, it could also be rewarding.


tempered radicals
How People Use Difference to Inspire Change at Work
Debra E. Meyerson
HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL PRESS

Based on 15 years of research and observation, the book reveals that adaptive, diverse, family-friendly and socially responsible workplaces are built not by revolutionaries but by those the author calls "tempered radicals"—"people who successfully walk the tightrope between conformity and rebellion."

The individuals have varying styles at introducing change within their organizations. At times, when change is difficult, if not impossible, these people—to be "true to themselves"—take on responsibilities outside their work that give them self-fulfillment.

The book speaks about a lawyer who volunteered his services in a legal rights center to follow his commitment to fight injustice. The book calls this "designing behind the scenes actions" in order to make a difference.

The book's research reveals that those who were successful in being true to their own values did not go for big wins, or earthshaking steps that would revolutionize their organizations.

That could have been a surefire formula for being fired. What they did was to "leverage small wins" over time.

A chapter is devoted to how these tempered radicals organize for collective action, a process that requires the "essential skills of leadership," the author says.

The tension remains when you are a maverick in your own organization. It is "difficult to navigate between competing pulls and sustains selves at odds with one another." The sad thing is some people finally give up one side of their selves or the other.

The book offers a way to "to resist lures to conform."

She advises that tempered radicals can make ongoing deliberate efforts to maintain affiliations, to make explicit the connection between their local efforts and their broader significance.

Possibly the most fundamental thing to remember about successful tempered radicals is that they know who they are and what is important to their sense of self.

It's a decision one has to make, the book says. Above all, tempered radicals reserve the choice to be an agent rather than a victim of their circumstances, and with this stance comes a tremendous sense of freedom and power.

Tempered radicals inspire change. Yet their leadership resides equally in their capacity to inspire people. They do inspire by having the courage to tell the truth even when it's difficult to do so.

If you somehow fit into this category, or you are awed by the success or survival of tempered radicals in your firm, this book gives you a deeper insight into these mavericks who ask disturbing questions but who, in the final analysis, have tremendous value to the long-term existence of your organization. *(dantemv@I-next.net)*

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Insurance Age	Annual Premium In Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium In Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium In Pesos	Self Support Year*
18	6,100	15	8,900	15	11,700	15
20	6,335	15	9,253	15	12,170	15
25	6,925	14	10,138	14	13,350	14
30	7,935	14	11,653	13	15,370	13
35	8,955	13	13,183	13	17,410	13
40	11,090	14	16,385	13	21,680	13
45	13,305	14	19,708	14	26,110	14
50	17,400	16	25,850	16	34,300	16
55	21,955	16	32,683	16	43,410	16

Note: Package includes Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) and Accident & Health (Twice Face Amount) riders

LIFE SHIELD DOLLAR 9/11

Lifetime Coverage	$10,000		$15,000		$25,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium In US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium In US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium In US Dollars	Self Support Year*
18	122.30	15	173.45	14	275.75	13
20	128.80	15	183.20	14	292.00	13
25	144.70	14	207.05	13	331.75	13
30	176.60	13	254.90	13	411.50	12
35	215.70	13	313.55	13	509.25	13
40	271.60	13	397.40	12	649.00	12
45	338.40	13	497.60	12	816.00	12
50	425.10	12	627.65	12	1,032.75	12
55	532.20	13	788.30	13	1,300.60	13

Note: Package includes the Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) rider.

Self-support year, earnings on dividends, and interests are neither estimates nor guarantees. They are illustrations according to the dividend and interest rates currently in effect. Future dividend and interest earnings will depend on future company experience.

*Allowing your policy to "self-support" simply means that dividends earned and the interest credited on them will be used to pay for future premiums beyond a certain year called the "self-support year", the accumulated dividends will act as the fund which future premiums will be drawn.

LIFE PROTECT 9/11

	Occupation Description			
Principal Sum	Office Type	Limited Manual	Skilled Manual	Heavy Labor
250,000	567.13	708.13	1,134.25	1,416.25
500,000	1,134.25	1,416.25	2,268.00	2,832.00
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Express Application Form

PROPOSED INSURED

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ○ Male ○ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ○ Single ○ Married ○ Widow ○ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
Relationship of Proposed Insured to Owner Payor *(if applicable)*		
PRODUCT NAME ○ Life Shield 9/11 ○ Life Shield Dollar 9/11 ○ Life Protect 9/11		
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE	RIDER *(if applicable)*	
Beneficiary's Name		Age

OWNER / PAYOR

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex ○ Male ○ Female	Age	Height
Civil Status ○ Single ○ Married ○ Widow ○ Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
MODE OF PAYMENT ○ Annual ○ Semi-annual ○ Quarterly ○ MSA/BPS ○ SMPDC		
IN CASE OF PREMIUM DEFAULT ○ Premium Loan ○ Paid-up Insurance ○ Extended Term Insurance		
Relationship to P.I.	Name of Trustee (if beneficiary is below 18)	

QUESTIONS: (CHECK ANSWER FOR BOTH PROPOSED INSURED & OWNER/PAYOR)

	PROPOSED INSURED	OWNER / PAYOR
A. Has the Proposed Insured (PI) or Owner/Payor (O/P) ever been told that he has cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous disorder? (If "YES", underline which ailment or ailments).	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
B. Does the PI or O/P have any abnormality or impairment in his health or physical condition?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
C. During the past 5 years, has the PI or O/P consulted any physician for medical treatment, or been confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institutions?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
D. Does the PI or O/P engage in motorcycle / motorboat / auto racing, sky diving, scuba diving or other hazardous avocations?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No

For each "YES" answer to any of the questions above, please give full details in the space below. For questions A,B, & C, include physician's name and address, hospital, date and nature of consultation, sickness or impairment. Use an addendum form (FormGF7C) for additional answers and/or beneficiaries. Please don't forget to sign these additional forms.

PROPOSED INSURED ____________ OWNER / PAYOR ____________

ENDORSEMENTS AND CHANGES (For Home Office use only)

I understand that all statements and answers contained herein and in any addendum annexed to this application, as well as those made to the Medical Examiner in Part II (if applicable) hereof are full, complete and true to the best of my knowledge and that any policy issued under this application **will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment during my lifetime and good health.** I also understand that Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) shall not apply to any payments made or to be made by either party to any policy issued under this application.

By purchasing this policy and signing below, I represent that I am not a U.S. person for purposes of U.S. federal income tax and that I am not acting for, or on behalf of, a U.S. person. If my tax status changes and I become a U.S. citizen or resident, I will notify Philamlife within thirty (30) days. (U.S. citizens or residents must strike out this clause and initial the changes at the left side.)

Proposed Insured's Signature ____________
Owner's Signature ____________
Signed at ____________
Date Signed ____________
Agent's Name & Signature ____________
Agent's Code ____________
Agent's Contact No. ____________

APPLICATION NO. ____________
DEPOSIT PAID ____________ OR No. ____________

Form No. GF - 150 - A

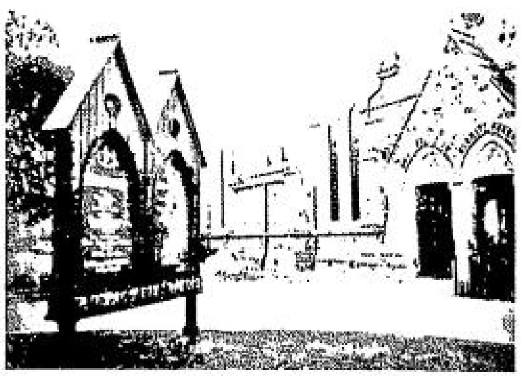
AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH MEDICAL INFORMATION
(This form should be completed for each case)

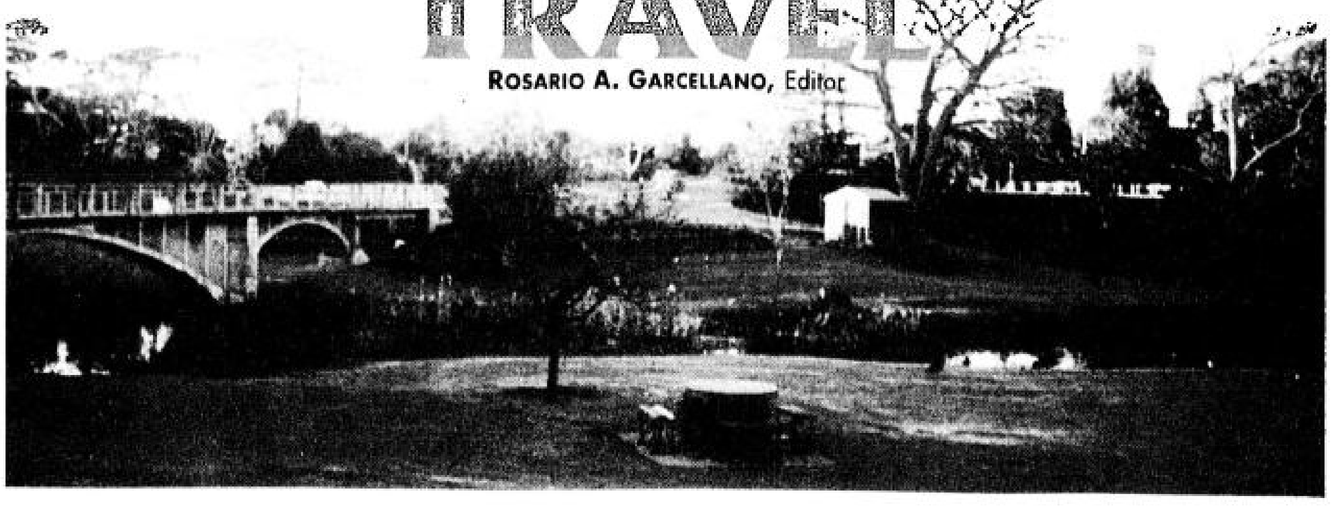
We hereby authorize any person, organization, or entity that has any record or knowledge of my health and/or that of ____________ to give to the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company any and all information relative to any hospitalization, consultation, treatment or any other medical advice or examination. This authorization is in connection with the application for insurance and all claims arising therefrom. A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

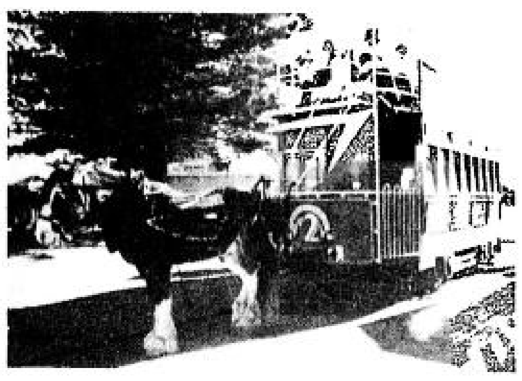
Signature of Proposed Insured ____ Signature of Owner ____ Signature of Legal Guardian ____ Signature of Witness ____

TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor







TOP, from left: Cathedral Church of St. Francis Xavier off Victoria Square; park by the Angas River in Strathalbyn; Victor Harbor's horse-drawn tram to Granite Island

Kinder, gentler Adelaide

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ANGELINA G. GOLOY

YES, we need Christmas—right this very minute! Remember Auntie Mame? Ignoring the fact that the most joyous season of the year was months away, she prescribed holiday cheer to cure the gloom and doom of the US Depression, the setting of the well-loved Broadway musical.

South Australian businessman Sir Edward Hayward may well be her real-life counterpart. In 1933 he envisioned a grand parade through the streets of the state capital, Adelaide, to get the recession-weary people in the right spirit for the coming holidays.

These days the parade, held in early November, is the city's official herald of the season of glad tidings and one of South Australia's top tourist attractions. It is also probably the biggest pageant of its kind in the world. This year it had 54 floats, 12 marching bands, three walking sets and over 1,000 costumed participants, said Selena Oh of the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) in an e-mailed update on the city I visited a few months back.

Most holiday season openers consist of the lighting up of a giant Christmas tree or the switching on of a moving department-store display. Adelaide's revolves around fairy tales, legends, and nursery rhymes—to my mind, a wistful throwback to an era long gone, before electronics reprogrammed children's sense of awe and wonder.

The theme is in character with the city, regarded by its counterparts in other states of Australia as too laid-back, not as much in a rush as its better-known cities are.

Immediately noticeable are its colonial buildings, mostly in stone, which bestow on the city its dignified air. "Somehow they remind me of Melbourne," I remarked to a guide. We were passing the venerable building housing the city courts, whence a young magistrate in robe and wig strode, munching on a sandwich.

Fortunately for Adelaide, my guide said, restoration had become fashionable in cities like Sydney and Melbourne. When they were tearing down their old buildings and putting up sleek new ones, Adelaide just sat back and watched. Then they realized that old buildings look good, after all, and started restoring the exteriors while remodeling the interiors to make them functional. Thanks to slow development, Adelaide has preserved its heritage architecture.

Another guide advised me after a day of touring to buy whatever I might need later in the night, like bottled water or snacks, before she dropped me off at the hotel. There are no 24-hour convenience stores here, the only outlet open after 10 is McDonald's, and it isn't near the hotel, she said. The casino is open "till the small hours," though, along with its restaurants, bars, and theater.

Shops? They're generally open from 9 to 5, Mondays through Saturdays. A few, mostly in the suburbs, are open on Sunday.

If this city were a person, it would probably be tagged a "square." But it's not quite that, although it is literally a square. It was built on a perfect square mile in a grid pattern along the banks of the River Torrens and is laced by parkland.

Designed by Col. William Light in 1836, this city of over a million residents has since expanded, with the hills and beaches no more than 30 minutes away. Here where space is aplenty, city folk enjoy an unhurried pace, along with the simple pleasures that are the envy of other urbanites—fresh air, walks in the park, bike rides along the beach, safe and congestion-free streets, gracious neighborhoods, abundant food and fine wine from its world-famous vineyards.

"This is a planned city, first settled as a farming community," said Graeme Andrews, who conducted a unique introduction to the city, via a culinary tour, with a market as the main stop! (What better way to a visitor's heart than through his or her stomach?)

Appetites whetted by a sampling of fine fusion cuisine from the Grange restaurant of the Adelaide Hilton, we walked to the city's famous Central Market right next door, stopping at stalls for a chat with the owners and some food tasting. Established in 1869, this two-acre food market is a showcase of Adelaide's wide variety of produce, its main distinction.

> Its holiday opener is a wistful, nostalgic throwback to an era long gone, before electronics reprogrammed children's sense of awe and wonder

LIKE a storybook house: town hall of Glenelg

"We have exceptional oysters, the best apples, world-class olive oil, incredible lobster and crayfish, award-winning cheeses, sausages, prosciutto," exclaimed Andrews, creative director of Adelaide's Top Food and Wine Tours. He attributed this fine abundance to a combination of the ideal Mediterranean-like climate (warm dry summers and mild, wet winters), a small but multicultural population and no pollution.

The rich resources constantly inspire culinary creativity, as manifested in a myriad restaurants. Dubbed "the city of restaurants," Adelaide has more restaurants per head than any other city in Australia, and it is where much of the Aussie cuisine appreciated worldwide is concocted.

One side of the Central Market exits on Gouger, one of the city's "eat streets," where one can dine every night for about six weeks without going to the same restaurant twice.

Perhaps in thanksgiving for the bounty, Adelaide also has more places of worship than most cities—32, for which it was known back in the 1970s as "the city of churches." Five are Roman Catholic; the rest are mostly Protestant denominations. As in the Philippines, some of the most beautiful buildings here are the churches.

A perfect complement to the heritage architecture is the vintage tram, which shuttles between Adelaide and the premier seaside suburb of Glenelg, birthplace of the South Australian colony and site of new development. The 25-minute ride is a "must" on a tourist's itinerary, time permitting. By car, Glenelg is only 10-15 minutes away.

Maggie Yu of Tranquil Travel Service picked the perfect time to drive over—sundown. As we strolled on the causeway, the horizon loomed like a magnificent painting in progress, changing hues oh, so subtly with the descent of the sun.

More panoramic views awaited us outside the city. Qantas and SATC arranged trips to the grape-growing, winemaking regions of Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Barossa Valley, Australia's largest and most famous, where I joined a wine-tasting tour.

The two other regions, however, held precious discoveries, with some of the most unusual tours.

Hahndorf town in the Adelaide Hills is like a trip to another time on another side of the globe. Settled in 1839 by 54 German Lutheran families fleeing religious persecution in Eastern Prussia, the state-declared heritage area has preserved its original Bavarian ambience.

Walking down tree-lined Main Street, a visitor can take it all in one sweep—history, culture, tradition, art and crafts—through landmarks, shops and galleries. Among them are the 160-year-old German Arms Hotel, which was renovated in 1990 with 500-year-old timber salvaged from an old wool store.

Once a blacksmith's shed, Storison shop is a treasure trove of handmade soaps and fragrance items, pottery, jewelry and miniature musical instruments. An old flour mill, The Old Mill, is now a hotel and restaurant featuring entertainment ranging from opera to circus acts.

On the way out of the town are a couple more unique stops, the kitchen cum shop of the Beerenberg Strawberry Farm, where visitors are welcome to pick strawberries in the summer, and Melba's Chocolate Factory where the sweets are still made using old-fashioned machines and methods.

In the Fleurieu Peninsula, meanwhile, a tour highlight is Victor Harbor, famous for Australia's only horse-drawn tram. Visitors should not miss taking the 15-minute ride down the causeway across the river, reminiscent of the passenger service at the turn of the last century.

Four trams, each led by a Clydesdale, take turns ferrying visitors to Granite Island, home to a colony of little penguins. The trams, fitted with roller bearings to lighten the horses' load, run on newly laid tracks that used to be part of Australia's first railway.

Closer to the main highway to Adelaide is another historic railway carriage, converted into The Almond Train, a café and a shop housing Australia's largest range of candy, soap and other almond products.

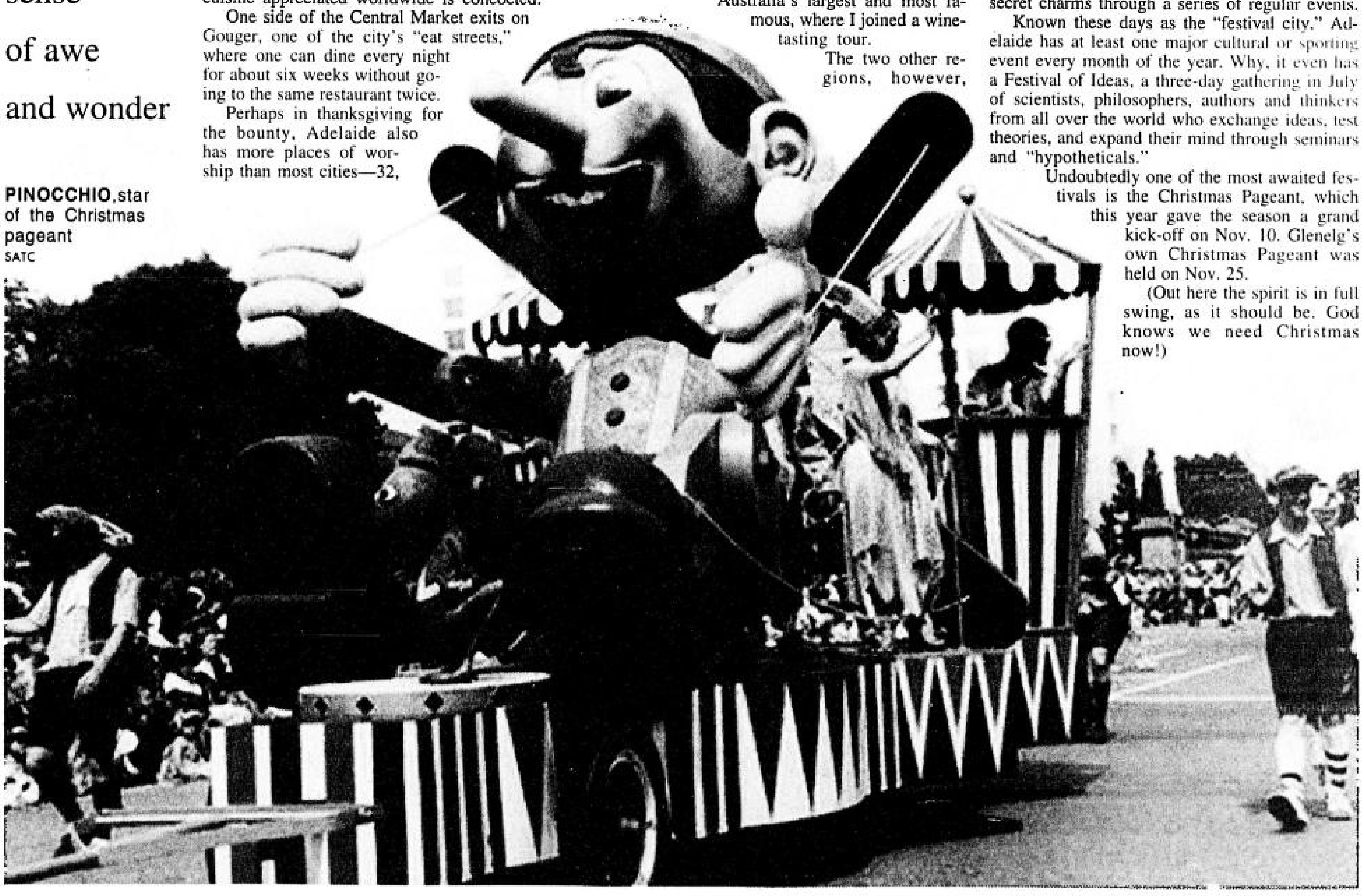
Heading back to Adelaide, one cannot but stop in Strathalbyn, a designated heritage area. Considered one of the most beautiful towns in South Australia, it is built around a park by the serene Angas River.

Articulating my impression, Micheal Seeliger, SATC market coordinator for Asia/Japan, said: "Adelaide evokes a gentler time...a city utopia." His office makes sure more visitors discover its secret charms through a series of regular events.

Known these days as the "festival city," Adelaide has at least one major cultural or sporting event every month of the year. Why, it even has a Festival of Ideas, a three-day gathering in July of scientists, philosophers, authors and thinkers from all over the world who exchange ideas, test theories, and expand their mind through seminars and "hypotheticals."

Undoubtedly one of the most awaited festivals is the Christmas Pageant, which this year gave the season a grand kick-off on Nov. 10. Glenelg's own Christmas Pageant was held on Nov. 25.

(Out here the spirit is in full swing, as it should be. God knows we need Christmas now!)



PINOCCHIO, star of the Christmas pageant
SATC

TRAVEL BRIEFS

'Frozen Aurora'

THIS year's Christmas light-up in Singapore, tagged "Frozen Aurora," simulates a rare phenomenon in the polar regions.

Through the creative use of 80,000 holographic tubes and 2,000 projectors, Orchard, Scotts and Tanglin Roads have been transformed into a sea of celestial lights to bring about the rarely seen Aurora effect.

Until Jan. 5, the Christmas light-up is on between 7 p.m. and midnight every night, and up to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the light-up may be viewed up to 6 a.m. of the following days.

Christmas Light-up 2001 is one of the highlights of Celebration Singapore organized by the Singapore Tourism Board. Four months of festivities are planned—an extravaganza of festivals, parties, parades and performances. Other highlights include the Singapore River Buskers' Festival, Duck Race 2001, Chingay Parade and new events such as the Fabulous Faberge, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and MTV Asia Awards.

Food festival

THE MACAU Special Administrative Region is welcoming visitors from all over the world to its food festival ongoing until Dec. 31.

The former Portuguese colony is presenting Macanese fusion cuisine along with authentic Chinese and Portuguese dishes. The Macanese food delights include *bacalhau* (cod), African chicken, Portuguese sardines, spicy giant prawns, and other *chorizo*- and olive-laden dishes. Lovers of Chinese cuisine can sample steamed or fried dim sum and dumplings as well as noodles and hot-pot dishes.

The food festival, now on its second year, is timed with the second anniversary of Portugal's turnover of Macau to China.

It is being held at the open-air plaza at the foot of the Macao Tower Convention and Entertainment Center, which was formally launched to usher in the affair.

Airline perks

STARTING this festive season until Feb. 28, special rewards are in store for Skywards members when they fly with Emirates.

Members purchasing their tickets in the UAE will receive up to 60,000 Skywards Miles every time they fly to any one of Emirates' destinations in Europe, the Far East, Australia, India or the Middle East.

They just have to register with the Skywards Service Center or through the program's website at www.skywards.com before they travel.

For more information, write Frances Barton, Emirates media relations manager, at PO Box 686, Dubai, UAE. Or call +9714-2032145, fax to +9714-2950758, or e-mail media.relations@emirates.com.

Kalakbay Awards

SINGAPORE Airlines was cited International Airline of the Year in the Department of Tourism's Kalakbay Award 2001 for its valuable contributions to the growth of the local tourism industry.

P.C. Teh, SIA senior vice president for Southeast Asia, received the award on behalf of the airline. President Macapagal-Arroyo, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and other DOT officials led the awarding ceremony in Malacañang.

A joint project of the DOT and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., the Kalakbay Awards are aimed at developing tourism consciousness in the Philippines by recognizing local and international individuals and entities that have excelled in management performance and tourism.

* * *

PALAWAN Gov. Joel T. Reyes, chair of the Palawan Tourism Council, received the Tourism Council of the Year award from the President and Secretary Gordon.

The province of Palawan also bagged three Resort of the Year awards, for the Miniloc Island Resort and Lagen Island Resort, which were adjudged tops in the "A" and "AAA" categories, respectively.

Alberto A. Lim, president of the Palawan Tourism Council, is also president of Ten Knots Development Corp., operator of the two resorts.

The third resort winner, Club Paradise in Coron, won in "AA" category.

WG&A named one of RP's top 10 best employers

WG&A was recently named one of the top 10 best employers in the country in a study done by Hewitt Associates, a global management consulting and outsourcing firm, with The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review.

"WG&A is very pleased to receive this recognition. It is a testament to our commitment in giving priority to our number one resource: our employees," said president and CEO Endika Aboitiz. The Hewitt study is the largest and most comprehensive people management study ever undertaken in Asia. Hewitt analyzed responses from more than 92,000 employees working in 355 companies across 10 markets in Asia.

WG&A vice president for human resources Tess Tongco said, "This award will serve as our inspiration to continue providing the best possible working environment for our employees, from the captains to our porters."

In the Philippines, 42 companies and 11,616 employees took part in the study. Three survey tools were used to help identify the Best Employers in Asia; an employee opinion questionnaire, Hewitt's People Practices Inventory, and a CEO questionnaire. These tools were used to conduct a detailed probe into the people practices of the participant organizations, exploring areas such as employee engagement, people programs and policies and business leaders' philosophies and approaches to managing people. The selection was made by judging panels in each country to avoid bias.

Filipino companies command the highest employee loyalty in the Asian region, with a score of 72 compared with the region's average of 55 percent. Hewitt Associates managing consultant John De Veyra said, "Almost without exception, employees of the Philippines' best employers possess a strong sense of purpose and enjoy a family-like atmosphere in the workplace."

WG&A's history goes back as far as 1948 with the establishment of William Lines Inc., a passenger and cargo shipping company headquartered in Cebu. In the '90s, the heavily freight-oriented Aboitz Shipping Company inaugurated its SuperFerry class of passenger ships.

In1996, Abiotiz merged with William Lines Inc. and Carlos A. Gothong Lines, another big shipping firm in Cebu, to jointly become WG&A. The company now has a fleet of 29 modern passenger and cargo vessels, 10 of which are SuperFerries. It is the first and, so far, the only domestic shipping line to have its entire fleet certified according to the International Safety Management (ISM) Code standard.

WG&A services 23 ports of destination nationwide with its corporate headquarters at the 12th Floor, Times Plaza in Manila.

SUN LIFE SUBSIDIARIES COORDINATE

Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) and Sun Life Financial Plans, ink an agreement to delineate authority, define responsibilities, and facilitate business transactions that they may jointly undertake in the future. Proof positive that between subsidiaries, Sun Life Financial upholds professionalism for the benefit of its clients. Present for the signing are (seated, from right) Sun Life of Canada vice president and actuary Henry Herrera and vice president for sales and marketing Raoul Littaua; Sun Life Financial Plans president Ferdinand Berba and finance director Raquel Fernandez. Standing (from right) are Sun Life of Canada senior manager for group insurance Millet Salvino, Sun Life Financial Plans client services officer Dittas Erguiza and Sun Life of Canada manager for group insurance Saul Herrera.

TALK 'N TEXT PHONE PALS VISIT DUMAGUETE

As part of its community outreach program, PBA squad Talk 'N Text Phone Pals distributed hundreds of Phone Pals notebooks, basketballs and other Talk 'N Text premium items to students of DECS West Elementary School in Dumaguete City. The Phone Pals recently went to the area for a basketball toss-up with the Red Bull thunders to secure a place in the 2001 PBA Governor's Cup. Shown is DECS West Elementary School principal Jose C. Miraflor Jr. (center) receiving an official Talk 'N Text Phone Pals ball from Talk 'N Text captain (from left) Jerry Codiñera and teammates Asi Taulava and Gherome Ejercito.

Saint Louis University granted autonomy status

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1994, granted autonomy status to 30 private higher education institutions (PHEIs) from a pool of about 1200 colleges and universities supervised by the CHED. Among the 30 top performing private colleges and universities all over the Philippines, Saint Louis University is the only institution granted autonomy status in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Saint Louis University now has the privilege to determine and prescribe its curricular programs in the graduate and undergraduate level and the privilege to establish satellite campuses and extension classes through distance education. Other benefits include: the privilege to offer new programs in the undergraduate/graduate levels without securing permit or authority from CHED; exemption from the issuance of Special Order; free from monitoring and evaluation activities of CHED; entitlement to grant subsidies and other financial incentives from CHED.

The criteria for selection and identification of PHEIs, according to CHED, are based on the following: established as Center of Excellence or Centers of Development and with FAAP Level III-accredited programs; outstanding overall performance of graduates in the licensure examinations under the Professional Regulation Commission; long tradition of integrity and untarnished reputation.

The autonomy granted to Saint Louis University shall be in force and in effect for five school years beginning the second semester of school year 2001-2002.

FPI PARTNERS WITH VERITAS FOR STORAGE SOLUTIONS

FUJITSU Philippines Inc., through its technology services and support subsidiary WeCare Technology Services Corp., was recently appointed as Diamond Partner Reseller by Veritas Software Corp., the leading global provider of core storage management technologies. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Larry Galang, general manager of WeCare; Felipe Manalang, FPI president; S.P. Tan, regional sales manager of Veritas Asia Pacific and Larrem Panganiban, country sales manager of Veritas Philippines.

CONQUEROR LOGO DESIGN WINNER

Arjo Wiggins, makers of the world-famous Conqueror specialty paper, together with its local distributor Star Paper Corp., recently held the awarding of the 4th annual Conqueror Logo Design Competition. Marvin Pedro (second from left) of FCB Bozelle Worldwide won the first prize with a trophy and P60,000. With him are (from left) Romeo Jacinto, general manager, product management division, Star Paper Corp.; Divina Morales, senior product manager, fine papers department of Star Paper Corp., and Nick Mason, regional manager of Arjo Wiggins.

Revised government contracts book available

THE NEW and revised edition (2001) of the lawbook "A Treatise on Government Contracts Under Philippine Law" is now off the press. The Central Lawbook Publishing Co. Inc. has recently launched it for sale.

Written by lawyer Bartolome C. Fernandez Jr., retired Commissioner of the Commission on Audit and now UP College of Law Professor, the book essays an integrated treatment of Philippine law on government contracts and incorporates the latest amendments and revisions of extant regulatory issuances as well as recent legislation relevant to the subject. It authoritatively portrays the Philippine experience in government contract administration. An analytical exposition on the guiding principles, policies and doctrines on government contracts as enshrined in or evolved from Philippine statutes is likewise included.

In the face of scandals and scams triggered by the anomalous execution and implementation of government infrastructure and procurement contracts perceived to be tainted with illegalities and improprieties, the book will surely come in handy as a useful guide and valuable reference for government functionaries in the executive department who are involved in contract management. Private contractors and law practitioners may also benefit from this book.

The book is available at designated outlets of the Central Lawbook Publishing Co. Inc. (with principal address at 927 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City) in Manila, Makati City, Cebu City, Iloilo City, Davao City and Cagayan de Oro. E-mail the publisher at sales@central.com.ph.

ALL AROUND HOME CLEANER
1932

PPHA, DOMEX PARTNERSHIP

Unilever Philippines Inc. marketing director for home care Marcel Kerkmeester (center) and Philippine Public Health Association (PPHA) chair and president Milagros Fernandez (right) sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that formalized a partnership between the PPHA and Unilever's Domex. The partnership entails educating Filipinos on proper hygiene practices. Under the MOA, PPHA will encourage its health workers to promote 'hygienic clean', a deep level of cleanliness that gets rid of surface dirt as well as germs. PPHA will also help create awareness on the harmful effects of improper hygienic practices. Domex is recognized by the PPHA as the all-around home cleaner that effectively cleans and kills all known germs. A product of Unilever Philippines, Domex is available in 250 and 500-ml bottles. For product inquries, call the Domex Hygienic Advisory Service (DHAS) at 564-0465 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-888-327 (outside Metro Manila). Looking on is Unilever Philippines Inc. marketing manager for home care Gina Lorenzana.

JOLLIBEE OPENS AT BONIFACIO STOPOVER

Jollibee Foods Corp., Bonifacio StopOver's anchor fastfood tenant, recently opened its stand-alone with drive-through outlet in the Global City. Bonifacio StopOver, e-square IT Park's retail hub, contains a full-service Shell gas station with food and convenience outlets. It is situated along 32nd Street, a major thoroughfare, directly connecting the Makati CBD to C-5 via the Kalayaan Flyover.

ALFM continues to outperform benchmark

AYALA Life Fixed Income Fund Inc. (ALFM), the country's largest mutual fund, registered a net yield of 9.88 percent p.a. for the 10-month period ended Oct. 31, outperforming the 91-day treasury bill weighted average yield of 7.96 percent p.a. (net) for the same period. ALFM's consistent above-average investment return translated to the continued increase in the fund's market share now widening further to over 44 percent of the local mutual fund industry. Likewise, during this 10-month period and with the year yet to close, ALFM has already posted close to a 200-percent net asset fund value increase.

Only two years in the market, ALFM, which was launched in September 1999, enjoys marked leadership and continued strengthened position in the mutual fund industry. This is because with only a minimum investment of P100,000, ALFM provides higher income potential, tax advantage and financial flexibility to investors by allowing them to withdraw anytime without penalty after 90 days. Furthermore, qualified investors enjoy a free life insurance coverage of P100,000.

Mutual Funds, a popular investment choice in more developed countries like the United States, Europe, and Singapore among others, pertain to a pool of money from various investors and managed by a professional investment manager in accordance with certain pre-set investment objectives that can range from maximizing capital gains to providing a steady stream of income. By investing in mutual funds, small investors are afforded numerous benefits such as diversification across different types of securities and access to a professionally managed portfolio.

Within a limited period and in time with the Yuletide season, ALFM sets to provide new investors with surprise ALFM gift items. ALFM is currently exclusively available only through select and authorized ALFM mutual fund distributors. Investors may call 845-5034.

NEC TECHNOLOGIES HOUSING PROGRAM

HomeCredit Mutual Building and Loan Association and NEC Technologies Philippines Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement allowing the former to offer its savings and home financing program to NEC employees based in the Mactan Economic Zone in Cebu recently. Representatives from both companies are (from left, seated) Colleen Ruiz, (HomeCredit senior manager), Roland Enric Dela Cruz (HomeCredit senior vice president), Toshimi Hirahara (NEC director and senior manager) and Jeoffrey Escala, (NEC assistant senior manager–HRD). Standing (from left) are Victor Emmanuel Martinez (HomeCredit vice president) and Cecilio Porillo Jr. (NEC assistant manager–finance department).

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Stop data theft with Phil-Data's Kensington Notebook Microsaver

LAPTOP theft is growing, and much of the data loss is often never recovered. The data that has been lost marks a huge negative impact in a company; theft causes loss of equipment, confidential information and time. This is the reality, and the plea is "Stop Data Theft!"

The Kensington Security products is the first line of defense for data security. Its solutions are not high-tech, but they have a proven record at reducing data theft. Kensington is the industry's No. 1 security product and by far the easiest to use.

The Kensington Microsaver Security Cable is a patented cable lock that offers a convenient, strong and portable way to secure notebooks and desktop computers. The microsavers are also compatible with flat screen monitors, LCD projectors, hard drives and other equipment. They are easy to use because you will just loop the cable around an immovable object, then insert the lock and turn the key. There are also key options available for Kensington Security Products: Keyed-Different, Like-Keyed and Master-Keyed and all security products are supplied with two keys as standard. Kensington microsavers are compatible with over 95 percent of notebooks and even the new Dell desktops contain the Kensington slot.

Kensington continues to offer the best in innovative design and enhanced functionality. Among other products available for the Kensington brand are the Input Devices or Mice and Computer Carrying Cases or Computer Bags. The Kensington Input Devices include state-of-the-art trackballs as well as low-cost and high quality mice. Input Devices are designed for use with USB, PS/2, serial and/or ADB ports for PCs and Macintosh Computers. The Kensington Computer Carrying Cases include well-constructed backpacks and traditional cases made of sturdy nylon, fabric and leather.

Phil-Data Business Systems Inc., a leading IT solutions provider in the country, is now the exclusive distributor of Kensington products in the Philippines. Phil-Data, one of the most trusted names in IT in the country, has partnered with the Kensington technology group to meet the growing needs, wants and demands of its customers.

Phil-Data, through its vast network of resellers all over the country, has consistently committed to bring and distribute the best products in the market. For more information on Kensington products, call Phil-Data at 811-2878 (Makati) or at 781-0581 (Quezon City) or visit the Kensington website at www.kensington.com or e-mail sales@phildata.com.

PLDT, SMART SIGN AGREEMENT WITH VIVA TV

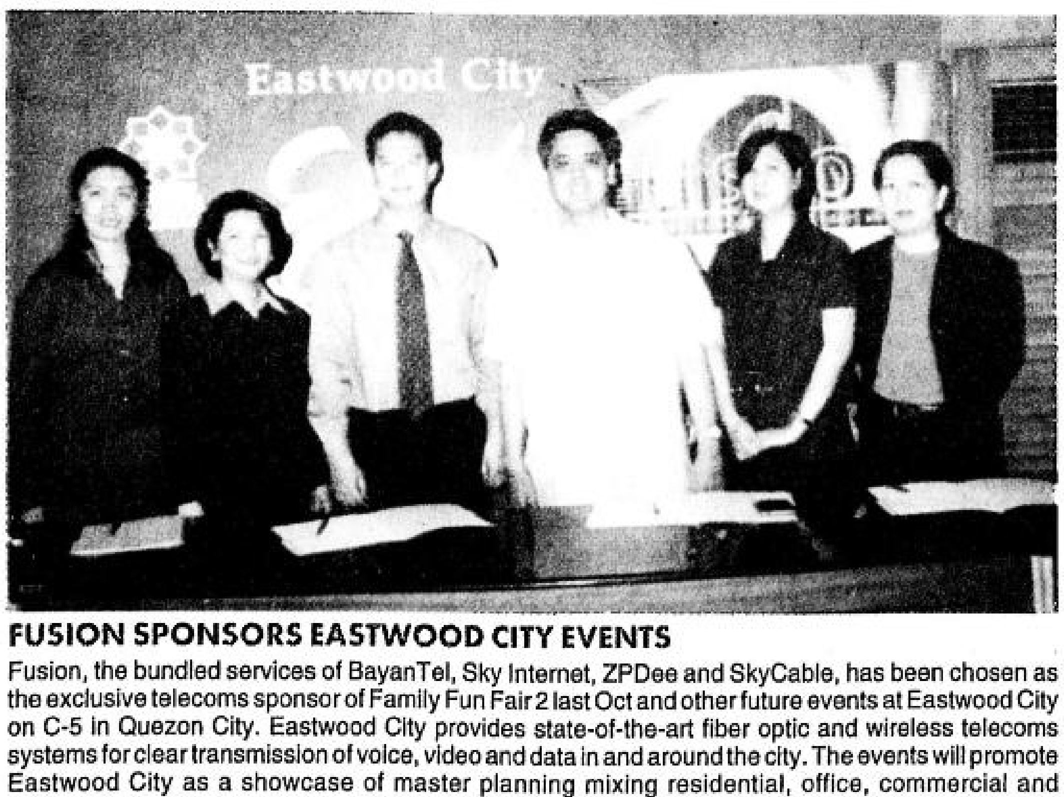
PLDT and Smart recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Viva TV for the launching of the TV show 'The Weakest Link'. Shown during the signing are (from left), TV show host Edu Manzano, PLDT GMM retail business group head Ito Ramirez, Viva TV president Vic del Rosario, Smart personal communications group head Boy Martirez and Smart Talk 'N Text product manager Guido Zaballero. To join the contest, aired Monday to Friday at 9:30 p.m. on IBC 13, viewers go through a contestant selection process by calling 'The Weakest Link' premium phone line 1-9081-1-800-800 using any PLDT NDD-equipped landline, Teletipid line, Touch Card, Fonkard and any Smart cellphone products.

I/AME-EXCELSIOR COLLEGE ALLIANCE

Emmanuel Candido Soriente-Santos II, president-COO of the International Academy of Management and Economics, receives from Asia-Pacific regional manager Evlin Fuentes the certificate of appointment as authorized representative of Excelsior College while Dr. Manual D. Punzal, acting chair of the Commission on Higher Education stands as witness. Shown at the back also witnessing the turnover (from left) are Bobby Greenwood of the American Chamber of Commerce, dean Enrique H. Davila, Dr. Alexander A. Calata, executive director of the Philippine-American Educational Foundation; Eamonn Staunton, first secretary and commercial counselor of the British Embassy; Philippe Normand, director of Alliance Francaise and Dr. Emmanuel Noli Santos, I/AME chair and CEO. The alliance can grant American bachelors and diploma in general business acceptable for employment in the United States and elsewhere. It is acceptable as well for taking MBAs in 350 leading American colleges and universities.

MWSS-AFI MOU

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) administrator Jose F. Mabanta (seated, second from left) signed recently a 15-year memorandum of understanding with ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI) managing director Gina Lopez (seated, third from left) for Bantay Kalikasan to reforest and protect the La Mesa Watershed Reservation Area. The MOU also stipulates the setting up of a nature park which will be developed by Palafox and Associates. Others shown are Macra Cruz (seated left), MWSS deputy administrator, and Marlo Mendoza (seated, right), Bantay Kalikasan program director. Looking on are (standing, from left) Manila Water president Antonino Aquino, MWSS board member Amaury Gutierrez, Justice Amado Valdez, lawyer Darlene Uy, MWSS corporate secretary and Studio 23 managing director Manuel Quiogue and AFI support services director Alfred Kudemus.



FUSION SPONSORS EASTWOOD CITY EVENTS

Fusion, the bundled services of BayanTel, Sky Internet, ZPDee and SkyCable, has been chosen as the exclusive telecoms sponsor of Family Fun Fair 2 last Oct and other future events at Eastwood City on C-5 in Quezon City. Eastwood City provides state-of-the-art fiber optic and wireless telecoms systems for clear transmission of voice, video and data in and around the city. The events will promote Eastwood City as a showcase of master planning mixing residential, office, commercial and recreational elements in one seamless landscape. Eastwood City is a premier development of Megaworld Corp. Shown are Fusion and Eastwood City executives during the formal signing ceremony. From left are Cynthia Cortez, marketing assistant, Fusion; Michelle Perlas, events manager, Eastwood City; John Natividad, vice president for marketing, Eastwood City; Rodrigo Montinola, vice president for marketing, residential and provincial telcos, BayanTel/Fusion; Maritess Canlas, product manager, Fusion and Cindylyn Nahil, marketing assistant, Fusion.

How zesty hams are made by CDO

THE ART of ham-making dates back a hundred years ago in both the east and the west.

In ancient China where peasants only ate pork on special occasions, giving a leg of ham was a gesture of friendship and respect. Historians say that in Medieval Europe, hams were served on banquet feasts of kings, knights and noblemen.

It is not exactly known when and how ham became an indispensable holiday delicacy for Filipinos. But the fact remains that seasonal hams contribute a big chunk of the meat processing business during the Yuletide.

CDO, an industry pillar which has carved a niche for its affordable and good-tasting hams, tells us how zesty hams are processed.

Ham-making starts with the stringent selection of pork leg meats. Quality assurance personnel evaluate the meats physically, chemically and microbiologically.

"We see to it that all meat materials come from slaughterhouses accredited with the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) of the Department of Agriculture," declares Amy D. Cuna, CDO vice president for manufacturing.

"After the selection of meat, trimming follows," Amy notes. It is a process wherein the unwanted parts of the meat such as the ligaments, skin and bones excess fats are being trimmed off. Meats are cut according to product specifications like the CDO Chinese (bone-in) ham and the CDO Holiday (boneless) ham. These two products are made of whole pork leg muscles.

The trimmed meat is injected with brine solution using an automatic injector machine. The brine solution is pumped and distributed evenly into the whole muscle ham to enhance its color and flavor.

After the injection process, the pork leg meat is kept in a curing room with a controlled temperature. This condition allows the curing ingredients to react with meat pigments resulting in a pinkish red color meat.

When the meat is already cured, it undergoes massaging in a tumbler machine or massager. The meat is tenderized gently without rupturing the meat muscle, thereby retaining its juiciness and flavor.

The massaged meat is then stuffed with a net to form the shape of the ham. The "netted" ham is ''smoked'' in a hot chamber with a controlled humidity and temperature for a certain period.

This process helps to prolong the shelf life of the ham. The smoked ham is cooked using a special solution that further improves the taste of ham. This process differentiates CDO hams from the rest.

"Our hams are fully cooked in a secret solution to boost the flavor and aroma," said Amy. ''This process also makes our hams ready-to-serve, unlike competitive hams that need to be cooked before serving.''

The ham is cooled in a chiller before denetting, a process where the deforming net is removed.

The cooked ham is glazed with sugar and subjected to high temperatures for the sugar to caramelize. This adds to the flavor and appetizing look of the ham.

After glazing, the ham is packed using a vacu-thermal pouch to seal in the freshness of the product.

The packed ham is stored in a chiller for immediate cooling down of temperature prior to distribution. Its shipping and delivery personnel, with the use of refrigerated vans, transport the hams to our customers.

SAP
DFI
CEREMO AL SIGN

DFI RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH SAP

DFI Consulting has renewed its implementation partner agreement with SAP, and the two firms have also agreed their value-added reseller alliance. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and with major operations in Manila, Philippines and Bangkok, Thailand, DFI specializes exclusively in SAP implementations. Clients in the Philippines include RFM, San Miguel Corp., Temic, Union Cement, Del Monte and SM Supervalue. Shown are (seated from left) Jon Duyser, founder and CEO, DFI Consulting; Ian Black, managing director, SAP Philippines; and Victor Hernandez, country manager, DFI Philippines. Looking on are (from left) Salve Zaulda Mariano, marketing and alliance specialist, SAP Philippines and Marivic Segismundo Gamo, marketing and alliance manager, SAP Philippines.

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SUPPORT FOR QUIZ BEE

Uni writing instruments, a product of Lupel Marketing Inc. (LMI), has again given its support to the ongoing 22nd National Super Quiz Bee (NSQB) being telecast every Saturday, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on IBC 13. Signing the agreement are (seated from left) Monica Pacifici, vice president for finance, LMI; Pettizou Tayag, vice president, Quiz Bee International; Mitch Pellicer, advertising manager, LM. Behind are Edlyn Baconawa, advertising and promotions assistant and Mario Daquis, advertising and promotions supervisor.

3 WEBBYS FOR UNIONBANKPH.COM

Unionbankph.com took the 4th Philippine Web Awards by storm as it bested four other top financial web sites to win the Best Banking and Finance Web Site in the country as well as bagging the People's Choice Award for Banking and Finance; and Yehey's Most Popular Web Site Award. The awards night entries were a thrilling mix of entertainment, scholastic and business cultures with all web sites being excellent in their own categories. Judges evaluated each web site according to usability, design, ease of navigation, download speed and various other criteria appropriate for the categories. From an initial selection of 10 semifinalists in the banking and finance category, the entries were trimmed down to five finalists in which Unionbankph.com was the only banking web site to be included in the roster. Tanya Titong, product manager and Steve Crisologo, webmaster for Unionbankph.com received the awards on the bank's behalf. The UnionBank team came in full force to show support. Among them were EVPs Edwin Bautista and Teddy Panganiban, FVPs Mon Duarte and Rafael Reyes, ITG's Martin Reyes and his team, Tricia Nuguid, John Medina and members of the web team Chito Bautista, Jasmine Dy, Eric Salazar and Ivan Manaloto. Shown is the award-winning Unionbank web team (from left) Jasmine Dy, Chito Bautista, Tanya Titong and Steve Crisologo. Looking on are presentor and TV personality Pinky Webb and Webby Awards judge Augusto Lagman, chair and CEO of Systems Standards Inc.

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MASSAGE FRED 8513462

•New Mabuhay Massage• Everyday Promo 421-5996

Pretty,European Girl 09192525922

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

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BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

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Reflex 0917-7503325

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

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MISCELLANEOUS

Escort M/F 0916-4241072

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Avble Maids Fr. Province 1st Timer 291-4524 • 445-0513

BEST MAIDS 912-4701•9124706

Cook Maid Yaya Driver 8743305

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4218262

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

International Cook 8735271•8722792

MAIDS BOY DRIVER 8737057/8533505

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8429807

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5062•873-7055

We have maids oldsitter PT hmecare 3664375/4141135

Yaya Cook Lava T- 8708799

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

•LIPAT•731-6833

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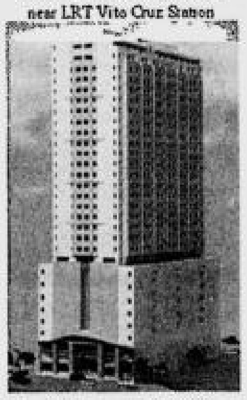

Res'l-Comm'l-Office
Beside De La Salle Univ. & near St. Scholastica's College
552-0260
552-0261
Owner/Developer EGI E. GANZON, INC.

MARIKINA

450m² Ind'l Valley Ideal Pre-School 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

1DrApt nrSM 680T 9295390

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

1511m² Ipil St., w/Pool Near S-Mall 6M 634-1212

2STY 2BR W/Tel 9416373

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Vista Valley200m² 6468528DBO

MUNTINLUPA

CAMELLA 2 D 149m² cor Lot 711-8540 09173662349

PASIG

Capitol 8 400m² 4BR w/Pool, Nice Hse @ 17M 633-7601/03

QUEZON CITY

Bnew FA256m² 4BR TB 2CG w/Tel H²OTank N.Susana 141-942492

L-2000m² Baler St., QC 928-1469

L-221m² Apo St., SMH P3.8M Old Hse Call 928-1469

L-258 New Mla Rollin Hill 2Sty 5Bdrm Call 928-1469

L-624 SFDM 2Sty w/ Warehse 4Bdrm / Office Call 928-1469

L-800m² Mindanao Ave QC w/Warehse 928-1469

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1carGarage 0917-8143792

Rush walk to Cubao good for dorm T9413602

•SM NORTH Bnew 9263307•

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8 LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

Valley View Exec. Vill. Cainta Call 658-2115/16

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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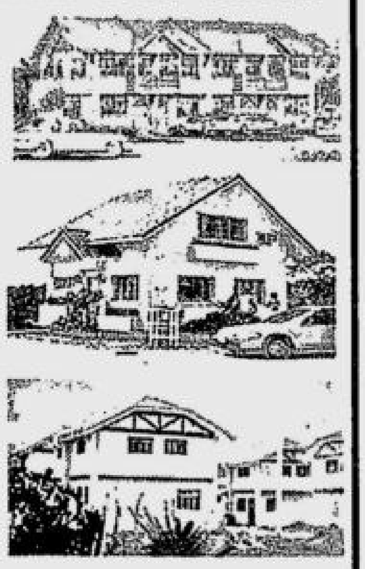

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Las Piñas City
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Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

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RCE Homes Rdy 4 Housing 8926353/7293343/09192321241

PARANAQUE

Marcelo357m²7T/m²9338848

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Roxas Blvd. 900m² 90T/sm Call 645-3731

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869m² Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

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L-280 Apo St., Corner Lot SMH Call 928-1469

L-406 Short Horn Proj 8 928-1469

L-4000m² Baler St., V-Lot QC P9,500T Call 928-1469

L-1000m² Fairview Old-Hse P7T/m² Call 928-1469

L-3300 Alng Edsa V-Lot QC 928-1469

L-480m² Mayon St., SMH V-Lot Call 928-1469

L-717 Cubao QC V-Lot 4 Lease Call 928-1469

L-317m² Marcos H-way Comm'l V-Lot 928-1469

L-578m² Mindanao Ave QC 4 Lease Call 928-1469

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Jason International
916 Henson Street
Angeles City
2009

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L-903 Mindanao Ave V-Lot 4 Lease Call 928-1469

L-308m² Visaya Ave QC 4 Lease Call 928-1469

N. Domingo 1500m² 20T/m² Call 645-3731

•PROJ 6 442m² 9263307•

Xavierville 925m² 18T/m² Call 645-3731

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East Acropiols Taytay Resd'l / Comm'l Lots Call 658-2115/16

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Vista Verde Cainta Victoria St., 5 Adj. Lots 658-2115/16

Culdad Del Sol Taytay Lots 58.60m² & Up 658-2115/16

Taytay 70sqm 09178174547

Valley View Exec. Vill. Cainta 150m² 658-2115/16

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L-35 Hectare Bulacan P20M V-Lot Call 928-1469

L-1 Hectares Ugong Bulacan V-Lot 928-1469

SOUTHPOINT 195m² 645-9931

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PASIG

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

6171 ENTHOVEN P10T 5252952

MANILA

2BR u/d 7272337 7268988

QUEZON CITY

Duplex Up/Down #64 Diamond St. NorthView1 Subd Batasan Hills Q.C. Tel 92111993/ 9299858 Del

HOUSE

PASIG

2Stryhse 3BR Tel 9970889

QUEZON CITY

Loyola Hts 4BR 2TB P25T /mo 8982311 09168215141

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ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER ALABANG 1BDR with Balcony Across Festival Mall P45T a Month T8071245

MAKATI

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1BR PTamoTwr w/tel 11T 7708676

2BR 9650 Pililla Mkt 5218333

MANILA

2BR 1997 Paco 5218333

3BR 3TB 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

CTL 8 1&3 BR FF w/parking 897-7960 & 0917-9896015

Furn. Studio-Type Providence Tower-Leon Guinto cor. Estrada St., Malate (nr. La Salle, St. Scho. & St. Benilde) call Tina or Lolit Tel. 5276476 or 5276031 Loc 308/312

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F150 850T RUSH 826-9288

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•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

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96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

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•98Pregio3.0 320T 9276597•

Besta Van P230T (Neg) 671-3535 / 733-2507 / 0917-8472716

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•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

MB100 98 375T 9257622;4330223

MITSUBISHI

Lcr EL94 P155T 09178325705

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'97 Sentra SS 37K Kms 1st Own Nothing 2 Fix 724-1396 • Ask 4 Cesar

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Bnew Van 8254058 8261045

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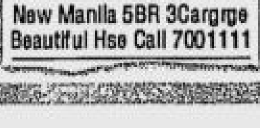

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the original plates issued by the Land Transportation Office (Pilot Agency), issued under the name of Delta Transport Inc. with business address of 1345 Harrison St., Pasay City was lost:

1 NYM-180	11. PXU-369
2 NYP-386	12 NYM-895
3 NYM-709	13. NYS-103
4 NYM-371	14 NYM-861
5 PYF-774	15 NYS-122
6 NYS-113	16 NYP-940
7 NYP-208	17. NYP-517
8 NYM-695	18 PYS-724
9 NYM-411	19 NYK-621
10 NYM-814	20 NYK-014

Under notarial registry of Atty. Daniel Balencia as per doc no. 19, page no. 4, book no. 145, series of 2001
(PDI - Dec. 23, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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I made P1.6M in the last 3 mos., bought a BMW, & had a Sydney Holiday! I need 53 women to train! Ms. Tan 525-0228 or 34

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

RTW P28up Wsale 727-4934

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Notice of Loss Petron Stock Certificate Nos. 843593-2,000 SHS, 1284437-500 SHS, and 1500496-500 SHS all under the name of Social Security System Fao Eloisa D. Merced. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Dec. 9,16 & 23, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen (Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.)Brenda Apelo

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

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PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful inter-cessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid.

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1998 Nissan Terrano S/W WDY-594
1997 Honda City 1.3/USS-834
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1998 Toyota Corona 2.0/WAB-544
1999 Honda CRV Wagon/WJZ-133
1994 Suzuki MC 100cc/PE-4200

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./Dick Cariño. Tel. No. 75-43-457
(PDI - Dec. 22 & 23, 2001)

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- ☑ Able to speak and write Nihongo fluently;
- ☑ With high mental aptitude;
- ☑ With excellent independent judgment and training capabilities;
- ☑ Competent in planning, organizing, staffing, directing, controlling, recording and budgeting;
- ☑ With perseverance and impeccable honesty and integrity.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 photo not later than Thursday, 10 January 2002 to:

The Human Resource Head
Koryo Subic, Inc.
Bldg. 8095 Boton Wharf, Cubi Point
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Olongapo City, Philippines 2200

Note: We don't accept faxed or e-mailed resumé

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A Christmas Blowout

Cheer your loved-ones and let them know how much they mean to you by writing them a heartfelt Christmas greeting in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On December 25, 2001, **INQUIRER Classifieds** will make your holiday season brighter by accepting both line and box ads for the December-25 issue at a special discounted rate of P50 per line or P180 per column centimeter.

For more information, visit or call any Inquirer branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

SAMPLE ADS

Jaymie,
A warm Christmas wish to remind you just how much you're cherished through the year. Merry Christmas!
Jet

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Merry Christmas Ernie! God bless you and your family – Sheryl

size: 3 lines
cost: P150 VAT exclusive

Merry Christmas Sasa! God bless you and your family.May you have a fruitful New Year – Shara

size: 4 lines
cost: P200 VAT exclusive

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

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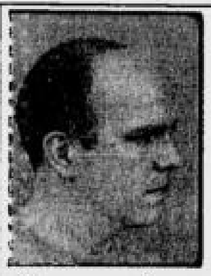
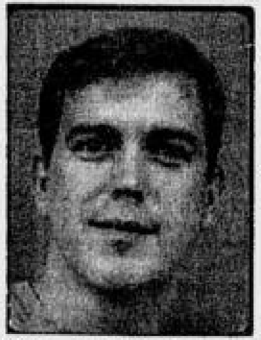


This is the same Person

Recover Your real Self

Invisible HairLine Edition
Txt: 0917-839-8638



Crown Jewel
Hair Replacement
www.napala.com

UG49 CityLand Pioneer
Madaluyong City

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TYT '2000 4-wheel drive
P1.4M Neg. T-3456781

Invite 2.8 million people to test drive your car.

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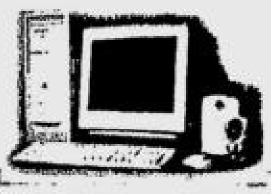
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.



IBM Pentium-3 700 MHz
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Invite 2.8 million people to surf on your computer.

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4-month-old Rottweiler
Call 0917-9713129 Lala

Invite 2.8 million people to play with your dog.

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OBITUARIES

RATE
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Please join us in prayerful remembrance of

Sister Rosario de Veyra of Jesus

who entered into the joy of God
at the new chapel of the Assumption Sisters
in San Lorenzo, Makati City
on December 21, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her remains are at the Assumption Chapel, San Lorenzo.
The Eucharistic Celebration before her burial will be
held here at 8:30 a.m. on December 24, 2001,
after which, she will be buried in Assumption Antipolo.

The Religious of the Assumption and her sister,
Mrs. Lourdes Sevilla, the nephews, nieces
and their families.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

(2 Cor. 4:14)

Our dearest Mamang,

FLORENDA GAGARIN PERUCHO

has peacefully joined our Lord on December 19, 2001 at the age of 83.

We, her children **Rudy & Christian**, **Fred & Auring**, **Carie & Jun**, **Nellie & Ruben**; her grandchildren **Lester**, **Frances**, **Annie**, **Michael**, **Mark**, **Crizzah**, **Marcu**, **Marla**, **Marian**, **Markie**, **Irene**, **Carlo**, **Claire**, **Vinci** and **Shanee**; her brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Perucho residence, Bengcag, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 29, 2001 at Gabu Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Raphael Parish Church.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

We who have believed are able, to enter and have God's rest.
Hebrews 4:34

MAJOR PEDRO C. DOROMAL JR.

now peacefully rests in the Grace and goodness of our Lord December 17, 2001 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **VISTACION**; brothers and sisters **REMY**, **LETTY**, **DOUGLAS**, **ENJOY**, **IKE**, **DAISY**; sons and daughters **BRONSIE**, **BERNARD**, **RAYMUND**, **GRACE**, **GABBY**, **REIGN**, **ROCK**, **GERALDINE**, **GLYN**; daughters-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Baguio Memorial Chapels, Naguilian Road, Baguio City. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 27, 2001 at 8:00 in the morning at Baguio Cathedral, after which interment will be followed at the Pyramid Memorial Park, Kias, Baguio City.

"FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN."
Philippians 1:21

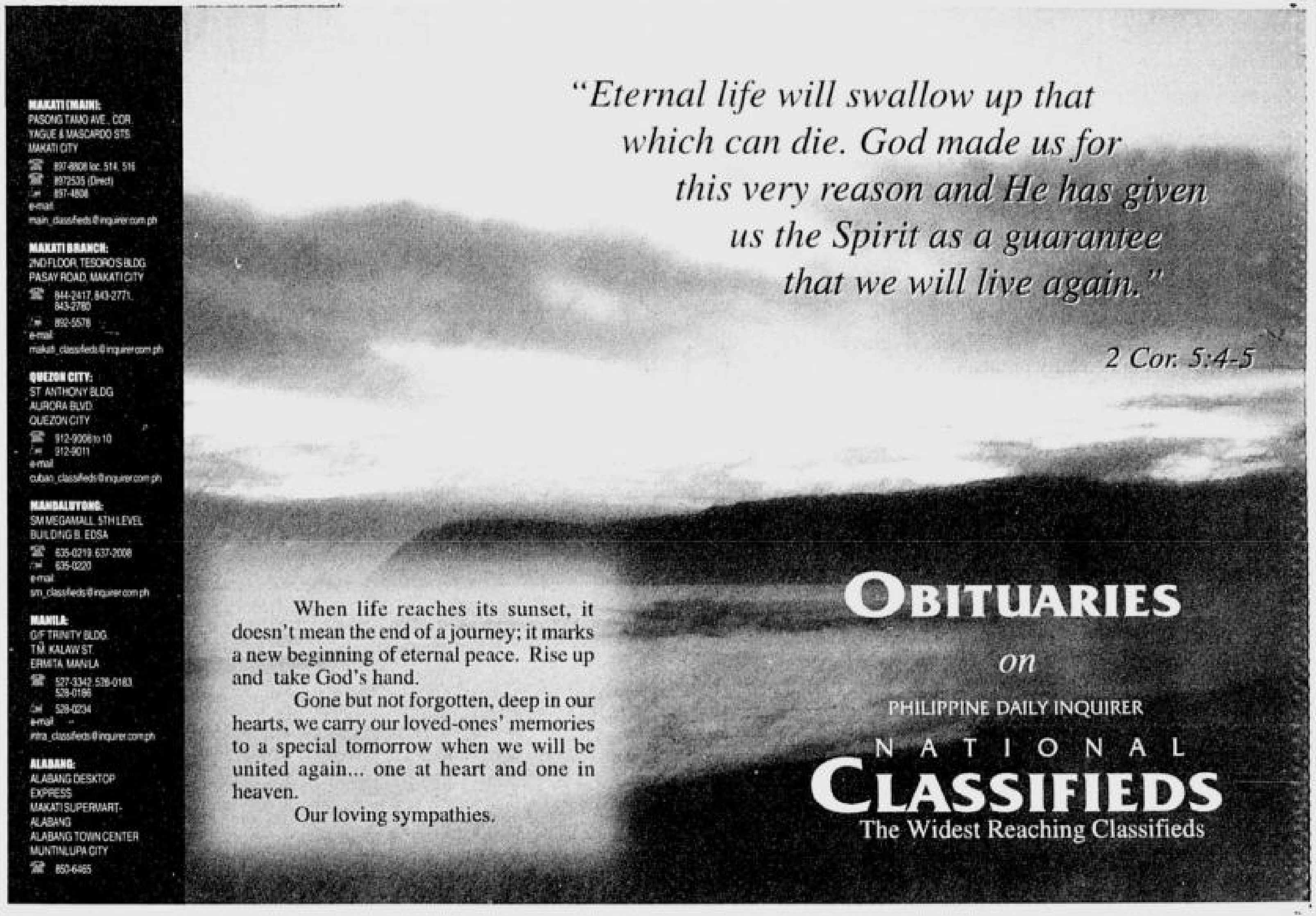
Engr. VICENTE D. GATAN

Peacefully joined our Lord
on December 21, 2001 at the age of 73.

His bereaved children and their spouses **Drs. CECILE** and **EDGAR MAGTURO JR.**, **Engrs. MARISSA** and **BEN AGUZAR**, **Dr. MARITES** and **Engr. DING LINA**; grandchildren, brother and sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 27, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.



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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES
on
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
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The Widest Reaching Classifieds

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY -o- REQUIEMS -o- FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
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FUNERARIA TUASON
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FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
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Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
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79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
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Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
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East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
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Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
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Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: a) 1 set Sleep Machine; b) 1 set Neurocom Balance Master System; c) 1 unit Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump; d) 1 unit Pulse Oximeter & e) 1 unit Rigid Bronchoscope.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent/co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office
8. Brochures of machines

****for add'l requirement, pls inquire at purchasing div. @922-0574 & look for Noemi****

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before Jan. 8, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Dec. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW)
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

Case Number 321659
(Name) CATALINO B. DOMINGO
You are being sued
Petitioner's name is: HAYDEE S. CRUDA

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form 1282) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you.

If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form.

If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately.

NOTICE: *The restraining orders on the back are effective against both husband and wife until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them:*

1. The name and address of the court is
   SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
   COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN 222 E. WEBER ST.,
   STOCKTON, CA 95202
2. The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, is
   165465 : 510-742-0634 / 510-742-0680
   MELBA ESPARTERO-CAWIT, ESQ.
   38750 PASEO PADRE PKWY., B6

Jeanne Hilsaps, Clerk
by Susan Brown, Deputy
Filed October 1, 2001, 10:49 a.m.

(PDI--Dec. 23, 30, 2001 & Jan. 6, 2002)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

First Christmas Card

Q. What was the first Christmas card like?

A. The first commercially printed Christmas card was made by John C. Horsley, a London artist commissioned by the wealthy businessman Sir Henry Cole. He designed a lithograph bearing the greeting "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You," and it contained three scenes illustrating the spirit of Christmas. One showed a family raising a toast in greeting, and others "feeding the hungry" and "clothing the naked." A thousand cards sold for a shilling each - and Christmas cards in all their many forms were launched upon the world.

For the Record. The first Christmas card was sharply criticized by the British Temperance Movement for "encouring drinking" as its centerpiece featured a party of adults and children with plentiful drink and food. Of the original one thousand cards printed, twelve exist today in private collections.

Past Forward. This day in 1895: The German physicist Wilhelm Konrad Rontgen photographed his wife's hand to reveal bones underneath the skin using his newly discovered X-rays. This discovery was made quite by accident while Rontgen was experimenting with electrical discharges in an evacuated glass tube in Wurzburg, Germany. Rontgen called the rays "X" because their nature was then unknown. For the discovery he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901.

WORD WATCH

Eksena: a Tagalog mispronunciation of the Spanish *escena*, "scene, stage, incident."

PDI – December 23, 2001

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Caraballo and southern cordillera agricultural development programme is an integrated rural development project of the Department of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union.

Invitation for Expressions of Interest
Local Technical Assistant/Specialist
In Agricultural Technology Development and Promotion

In the scope of the Agricultural Production Systems Development Component, CASCADE is currently seeking one Local Technical Assistant (LTA) or Specialist in the field of Technology Development and Promotion. CASCADE is currently operating in the uplands of Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet and Nueva Ecija.

Applications are invited from qualified agriculturists with at least ten years experience in planning, development, extension, agricultural research, alliance building and networking with Local Government Units (LGUs). They should be physically fit and capable of working in the field/remote areas.

Expressions of interest together with full CVs and other pertinent documents in support of the application for the above mentioned areas of specialization should be submitted no later than January 15, 2002. Only qualified candidates will receive an acknowledgement and be given the full Terms of Reference (TOR).

All correspondence should be addressed to the following:

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. No. (078) 321-2605 & 321-412
Tel/Fax No. (078) 321-3611
e-mail: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR STATEMENTS OF PRE-QUALIFICATION
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) invites real estate developers, investors, resort firms, investment bankers, and other knowledgeable and well-capitalized property interests to submit offers to help develop sites within Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Several sites that are suitable for tourism are now being offered under the SBMA's Pro-active Land Marketing Program.

The following properties will be offered under a long-term lease and development to qualified developer-proponents with the most advantageous proposals:

Property	*Project Site*	*Area (m^2) approx.*
A. Ilanin II	Camayan Point Resort	17,000
B. Ilanin IV	Hidden Beach Resort	80,000
C. Ilanin V	Grande Island Tourism Recreation Site	450,000
D. Ilanin VII	Commercial Recreation attraction area	TBD

Pre-qualification Application and Information packets for each property will be available for issuance starting **December 10, 2001** at: (a) SBMA Planning and Development Office (PDO), Rm. 108, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, ☎ (047) 252-4097/4053 upon payment of Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00) which is non-refundable.

Last day of submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Application and other supporting documents is on **January 11, 2001, not later than 5:00 PM**.

SBMA is seeking qualified investors for these unique properties. Only the most environmentally-responsible should seek the rights to develop the "Ilanin" tourism properties.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and to accept real estate developers whose proposals is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. No. 911-6001 local 5434, 913-1175
AFP Website: http://www.armedforces.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The AFPLC Bids and Awards Committee will conduct a public bidding for the procurement of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

Eligibility and Bid Documents can be obtained or the Secretariat, AFPLC BAC starting on **December 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

A pre-bid conference for the item mentioned above will be held on **December 27, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **January 18, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City followed by the Opening of Bids at 2:00 p.m.

The AFP Logistics Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid and to award the contract to the lowest calculated responsive bid as determined by the AFPLC Bids and Awards Committee.

(Sgd.) **COLONEL REYNALDO S. RAMIREZ (GSC) PAF**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Dec. 22 & 23, 2001)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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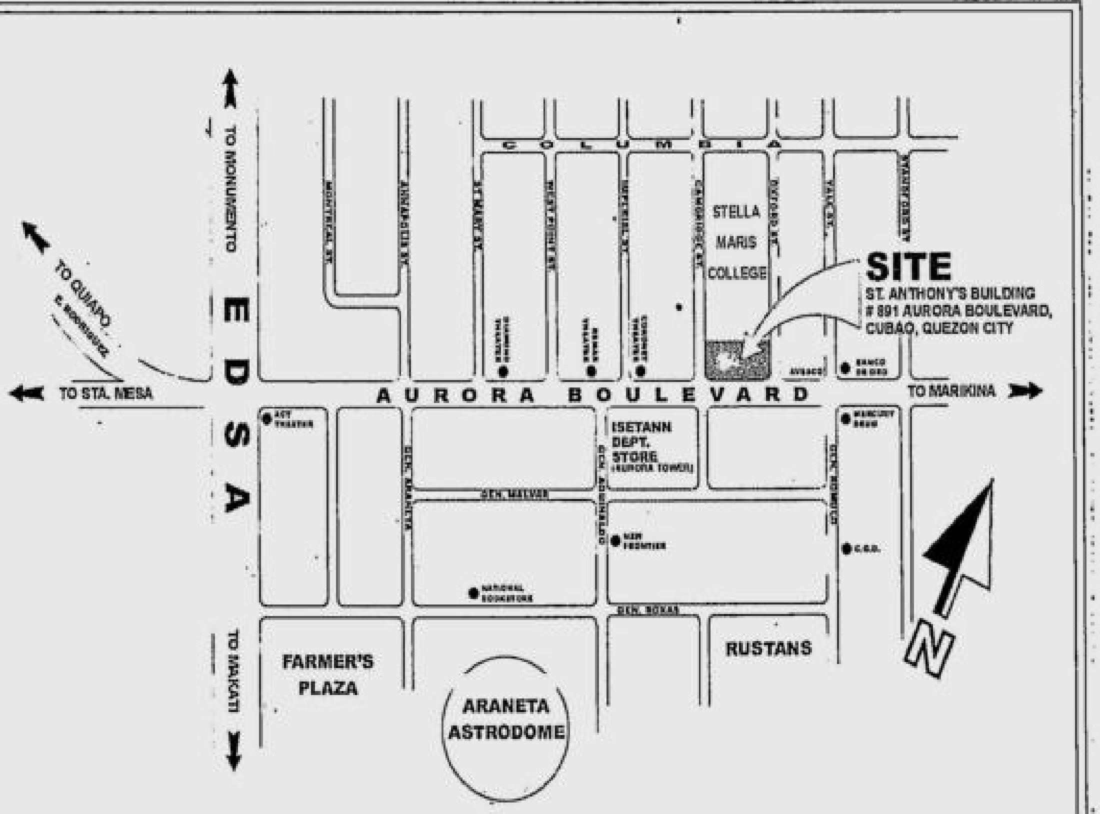

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Tel No. (044) 463-0623
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Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
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(064) 229-7089 (Lollot - Secretary)
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Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
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Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
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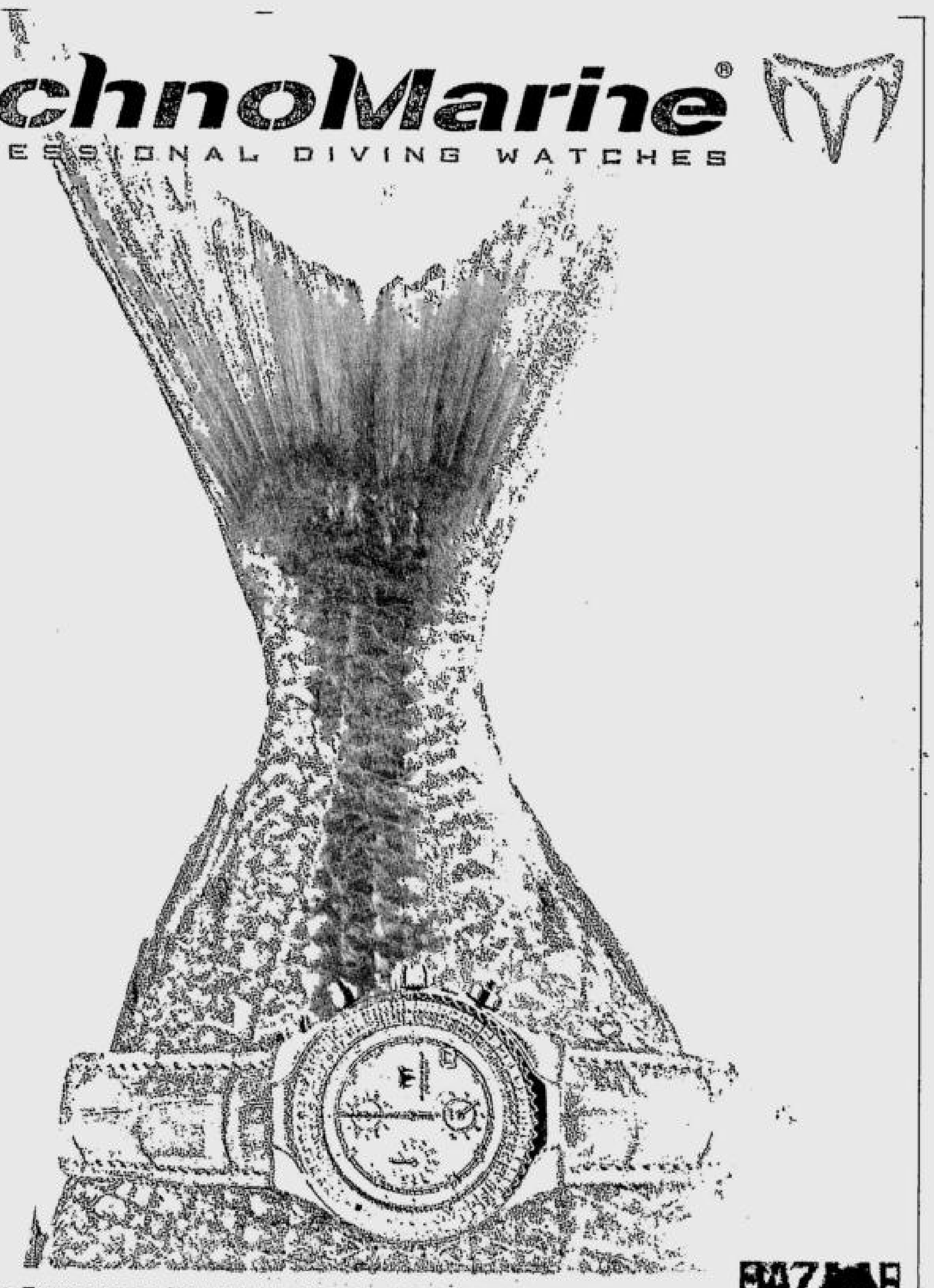

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MY DIAMOND 2ND FLOOR GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER MAKATI CITY TEL. 8172764 WISH UNIT 121, SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING ARCADE, AYALA AVENUE 1226 MAKATI CITY TEL. 8673850 WASHINGTON ROCKWELL R1 LEVEL, POWERPLANT MALL, MAKATI CITY

AS SEEN IN BAZAAR

Sunday BIZ

This man just won't give up

ENRIQUE Zobel: the original tycoon

DESPITE his disability, the wheelchair, and the fact that he is on the brink of celebrating his 75th birthday, Enrique Zobel, the original Makati tycoon, continues to win major awards for his contributions to nation-building.

The Philippine Jaycee Senate and the Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. recently awarded Zobel The Outstanding Filipino Award for Business, annually given to Filipinos 41 years and older.

The Tofil award recognizes Filipinos who work for the advancement of their fellowmen.

EZ is an international figure in the world of business and industry, having held various chief positions in numerous large corporations such as Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, San Miguel Corp., Davao Shipyard and various civic organizations.

He founded the Makati Business Club, and has spearheaded a number projects for the underprivileged through the E. Zobel Foundation. He is chairman of the board and director of a dozen corporations in agro-industrial, realty, property development and resort management.

While enrolled in the University of California at Santa Clara taking up agronomy, he worked in his off-hours as a mechanic with Chevrolet.

When he returned to the Philippines, his first job with Ayala y Cia was to repair heavy equipment assigned to transforming Makati from swampland into a business and residential district. He was soon promoted to head the heavy equipment department and worked his way up to be chairman of the board of Ayala Corp.

Having devoted most of his life to being a businessman, EZ admits that he enjoyed every minute of it.

"I feel that it was, at that time, what I could do best, and why not, when I had as a supporting cast some of the best professional minds Philippine business has ever produced?" EZ said in his acceptance speech.

"This has left me with the insight many of you might already have—that great leadership is not just about the leader, but also as much as about how great his ability is to choose sometimes even more talented men and women to support him," EZ added, crediting most of his successes to people he has worked with through the years.

Spending over 10 years in a wheelchair and dependent on others because he is paralyzed from the neck down from a polo accident, EZ's experience has led him to new insights. "Life begins when we begin to realize the value of life. Sometimes it necessitates a major tragedy to wake us up to this realization," he said.

EZ professed that his accident gave him the opportunity to reevaluate how he lived his life, as well as how he would live the remaining years. "They will be years dedicated to others—to my loved ones and friends, of course, as well as to those I may have never touched before."

"And as for retirement, only God can retire me. Until then, I will remain a Filipino dedicated to doing what I can for this country of ours."

Urging Filipinos to "make our country great again," EZ said that regardless of age or station in life, Filipinos must commit to being of help to others. He advises the new generation of managers to be disciplined, honest, and to keep in mind "our special Philippine culture."

"For the first time in Tofil's 14-year history, an awardee was given a standing ovation," Insular Life president Vicente Aylion wrote in a congratulatory letter to EZ. "A lot of people were teary eyed at the end of your very moving speech."

Of the 60 nominees, the four other awardees were Dr. James G. Dy for humanitarian service, former Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ceferino L. Follosco for engineering, Dr. Fortunata C. Villamar for education, and Justice Jose C. Vitug for justice and law.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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BMW 325ia	2,600,000	520,000	53,465
BMW 325ia Exec	2,700,000	540,500	56,856

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LIFESTYLE
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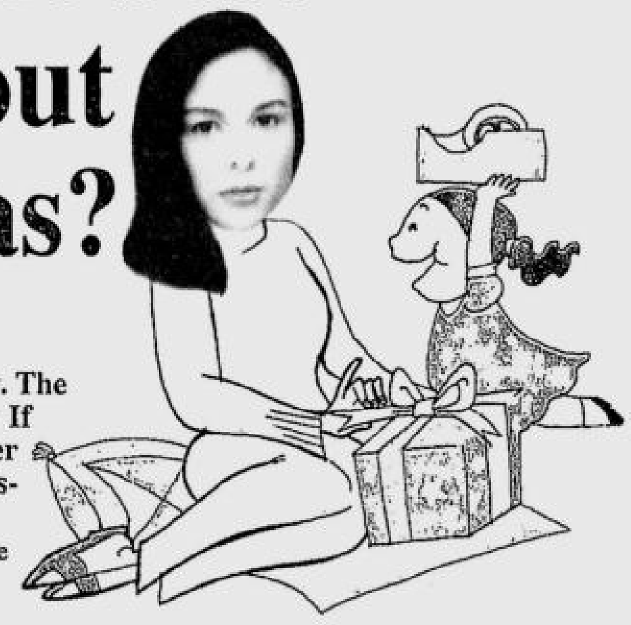
TALK TO US

What's the best thing about Christmas?



BY TIM YAP

SURELY, you must feel it now. The Christmas spirit, I mean. If you're still asking each other if you feel it yet, you must be focusing on what isn't important.

"It's so hard to feel it especially since these times are so hectic!" exclaims a hardworking urbanite, on her way to a board meeting. "Have to give Jenny a nice gift because she gave me something cute last year." "I haven't wrapped my gifts yet—oh I forgot, I haven't bought the gifts!" Sounds familiar?

An excess of materialism, an overzealous Catholic celebration or an emotional stretching exercise—Christmas is a lot of things to many people.

One thing is sure, and I borrow the refrain from Gift Gate's phenomenal Yuletide campaign: "Can't stop Christmas, can't stop the joy, can't stop the reason, Christmas lives inside of us, from season to season."

For this issue, I stalked seasoned celebrities from various fields to tell us what for them is the best thing about Christmas.

Gretchen Barretto

(Homemaker, Pantene endorser and one of Manila's most beautiful)

We were trying to communicate by mobile phone through a bad signal. When I called her at home, the line was clear. And so was her joyous mood. "Being with the people you love most. Christmas is about being with the family. We Filipinos love that sense of togetherness. I also love the eating, aside from the presents."

> A general feeling of happiness and hope is the running theme

Henri Calayag

(Mega Fashion Awards' "Hairstylist of the Year" and owner of H Salon, an artist's artist and style pioneer)

Jumping between clients and checking on the interiors of his new salon, he took time out to share with us his excitement. "The best thing about Christmas now is opening my own salon. It's been a long wait."

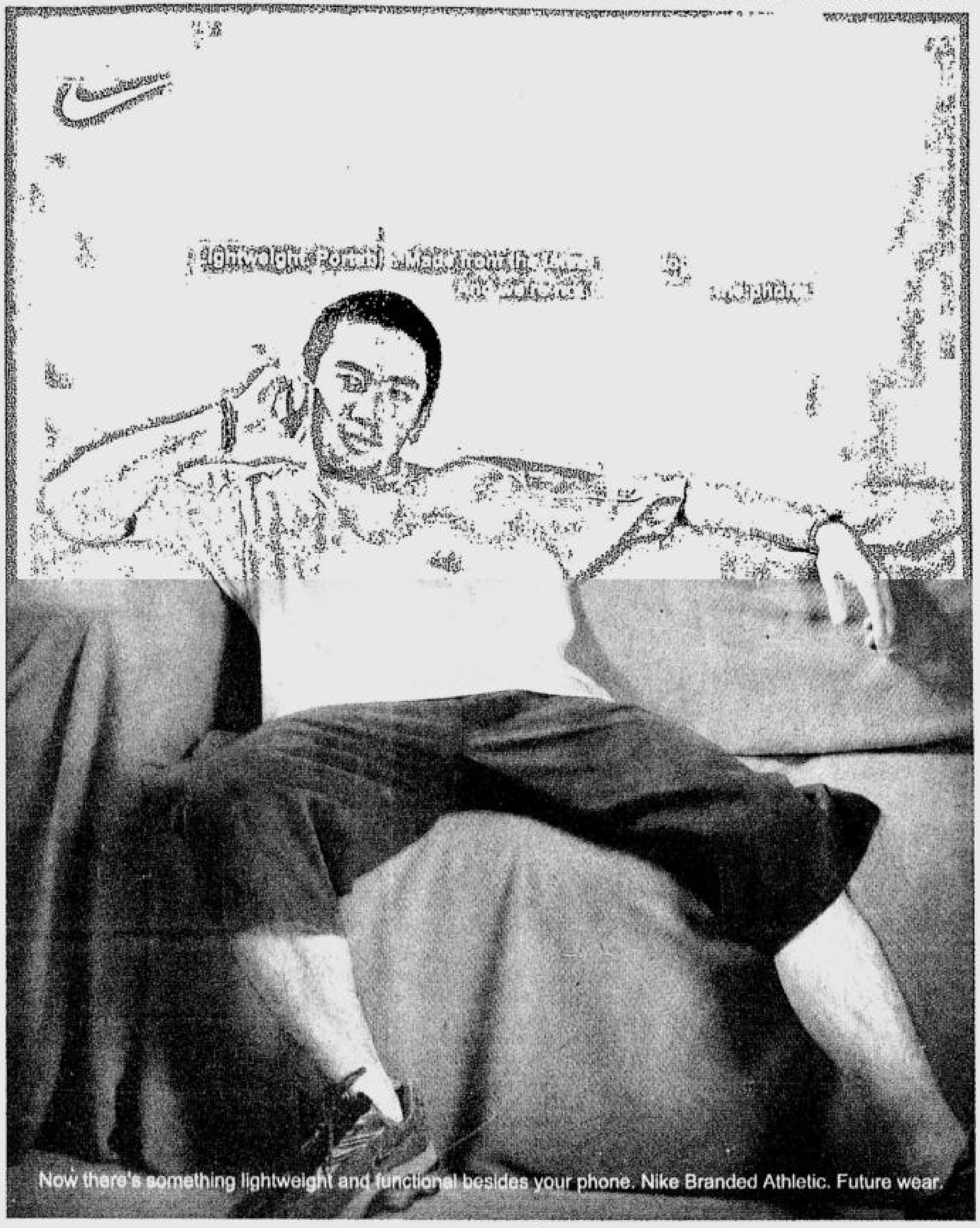
Manila's style files will wait no longer.

Lisa Chan

(Hotelier (EVP of Hyatt) and the other half of "Christmas In Our Hearts")

No, I don't think she was strolling along and watching boys and girls selling lanterns on the streets when I texted her. But she texted me back immediately with a touching message. "The best

WHAT'S/p.C2



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See fireworks
light up
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Fireworks shows at Ayala Center Makati every Friday at 8 pm and every Saturday and Sunday at 7 pm until December 30 at the Glorietta 4 Park. At the Alabang Town Center, it's on every Saturday and Sunday at 7 pm until Dec. 30 at the Town Plaza. At the Ayala Center Cebu, see the lights at 8 pm on Dec. 16 and 23 in the lagoon area.

EXTENDED MALL HOURS:

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Dec. 14-22 (10 am to 10 pm)
Dec. 23 (10 am to 12 mn)

Alabang Town Center
Dec. 14-22 (11 am to 9 pm weekdays/10 am to 10 pm weekends)
Dec. 23 (10 am to 12 mn)

Ayala Center Cebu
Dec. 19-21 (10 am to 9 pm)
Dec. 22-23 (10 am to 10 pm)

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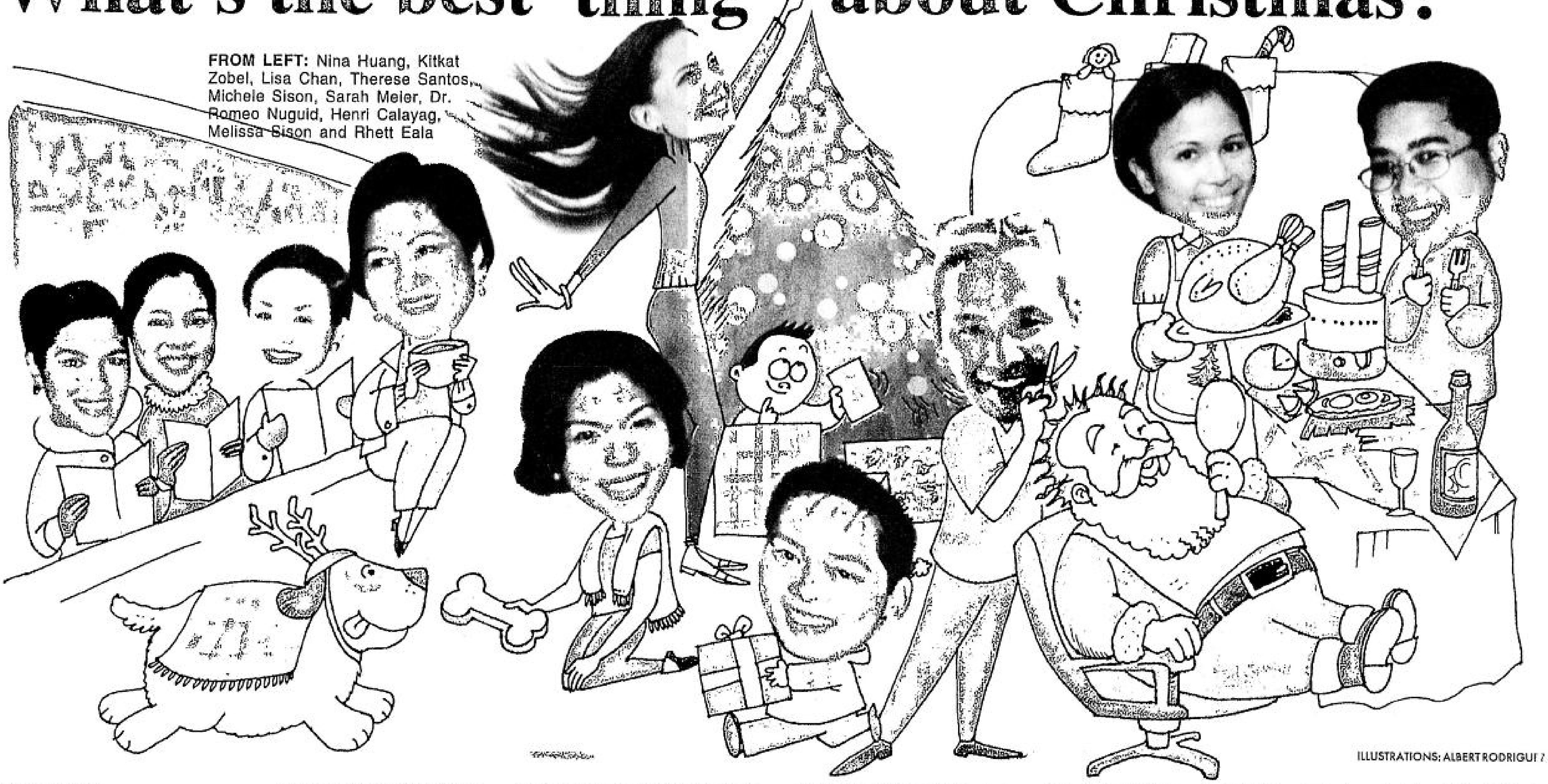
What's the best thing about Christmas?



FROM LEFT: Nina Huang, Kitkat Zobel, Lisa Chan, Therese Santos, Michele Sison, Sarah Meier, Dr. Romeo Nuguid, Henri Calayag, Melissa Sison and Rhett Eala

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGU

(From page C1)

thing about Christmas for me is HOPE! The hope of innocent children and the hope of a new year to come."

Rhett Eala

(Hot designer of Wink with a loyal following among the style-conscious set)

On his way to McCafé to take a break from hopping between his new Rockwell and Glorietta stores, his eyes widen as he ordered *merienda*. "*Puto bumbong* and *bibingka*, definitely!" Tighten that belt, Rhett!

Nina Herrera-Huang

(Homemaker and Store's Specialist Inc.'s lucky charm)

She was talking to her mom when I called. She called me back promptly, sweetness present in her voice. After hearing the question, she paused, then lighted up when the first thought hit her. "At this point, I'm excited to spend it with my daughter who's 1½. Now as a toddler and not an infant anymore, she's completely aware of everything. She'll be enjoying Christmas with the whole family."

Sarah Meier

(Uber-model, MTV VJ and current Swatch "it" girl)

Backstage at Rajo Laurel's book launch at Alliance Francaise, I ran toward her as she changed from ultra glam couture top to a casual yellow shirt. She paused and thought, smiled, then said, "It is the season when people think less of themselves and more of others."

Dr. Romeo Nuguid

(Pediatric consultant at Makati Medical Center and one of Manila's most eligible)

He was in the middle of a work out when I spotted him. He stopped pumping iron, and in a kind voice, said, "Seeing smiles on our patient's faces regardless of their condition."

Therese Coronel-Santos

(Cinderella CEO and low key style swan)

I phoned her up in the middle of a meeting. Still she obliged with utmost courtesy. "Gift giving, loving and sharing." Concise her words might be, they rang with warmth and sincerity.

Melissa Sison

(One of Manila's most popular and well-respected young chefs; Salumeria owner)

Serving lunch personally to her corporate clientele on Perea Street, I ran up to her as she was planning a menu for a catering job. She said without batting a pretty chef's eyelash, "The best thing about Christmas is preparing the family meal and preparing meals for other families as well. It's during the meals that pleasant conversations occur, relationships are strengthened and new friendships developed."

Michele Sison

(Hip couture designer, Estilo partner and Manila's most loved "Thumbelina")

In the middle of fitting a client, she welcomed me into her stylish atelier filled with Christmas trimmings. She answered, with son Gio in tow, "It's beyond words. It encompasses kindness and generosity—all unconditional positive attitude toward others." For Michele, this is actually practiced the whole year round.

Kitkat Zobel

(Mother, businesswoman and civic worker)

I called her at her house as she was getting ready to leave for the United States the following day, where the family will spend the holidays. With a very pleasant tone, she greeted me "Merry Christmas!" and said, "Being with loved ones and enjoying it through the eyes of my children. Christmas gets hectic when you become an adult. One of

WHAT'S/p.C3

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What's the best thing about Christmas?

(From page C2)

the best things is the time you get to reflect on family."

Virgie Ramos

(Gift gate godmother, Hello Kitty fanatic and Christmas advocate)

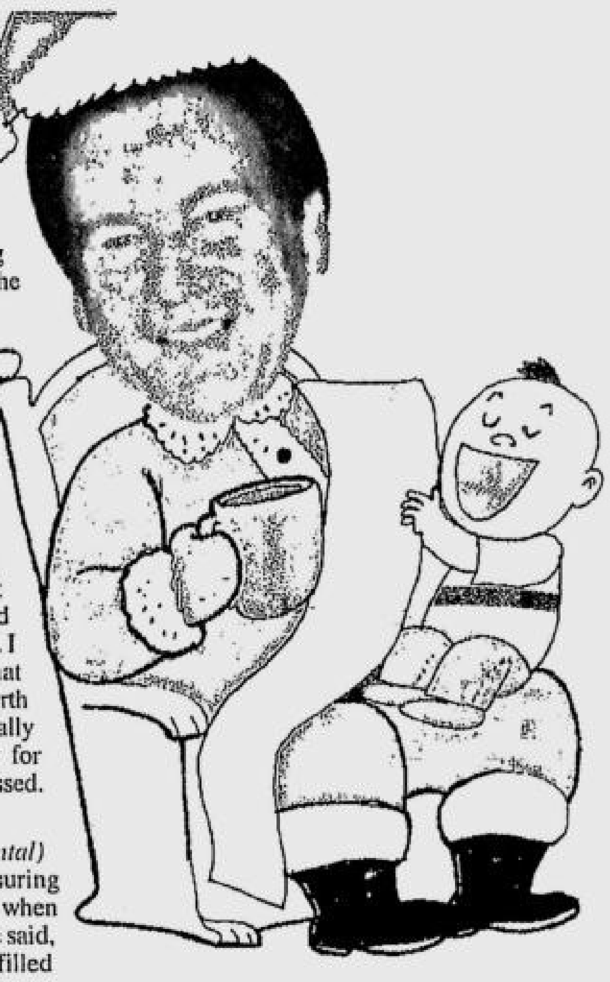
As usual, she was in her element, spreading Yuletide cheers to everyone she sees. This time, she was talking to an employee, who then gave Tita Virgie a tight hug after this Christmas activist put a golden necklace with a Kitty pendant around her. This Gift Gate employee has been with her for 25 years. With the season's best smile, she turned to me and said, "The best thing about this Christmas is—what else? That no one can take it away!"

Read: "Can't stop Christmas!

Sharon Cuneta

(The Megastar, the country's most sought-after endorser and Senator Kiko's better half)

My lovable *achi*, exuding fervor, told me this over the phone, "The best thing about the season is the reason! The fact that we are celebrating the birth of Christ, and that there's really something different and you can actually feel the spirit and smell it in the air. I love giving and receiving gifts, though it seems that it has become too commercialized and *s'yempre* times are hard. I don't like the stress that comes with it, but it's worth going through because it is really such a happy time—especially for the kids." No wonder she is blessed.



Helmut Gaisberger

(Well-loved GM of Mandarin Oriental)

He was doing rounds at the hotel, ensuring the smooth flow of their holiday bookings when I asked him. With a Santa Claus smile he said, "It's the time when people's hearts are filled with joy." Ho-Ho!

Two breakthrough products from Carefree

TODAY'S women are always on the go. But while they juggle their time between their family and career, today's women still need to feel freshly feminine all the time. Carefree, the number 1 brand of Panty Liners, knows exactly what women want and has come up with two breakthroughs to meet every woman's need.

The New Carefree G-String Panty Liners is the latest innovation from the brand that clearly understands women's needs. It's the answer to the problems of thong wearers. In adding this new variant to their already diverse line, Carefree knows that today's woman make choices and she is able to make choices with regards to her everyday hygiene. No longer will she have to be uncomfortable due to fashion constraints. She can now feel and look good and stay fresh and comfortable.

The new Carefree G-String Panty Liner's innovative design is shaped like a thong and has adhesive wings so that it stays in place. Its comfort and design is so created so that you won't even know its there.

Another innovation is the New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner that promises the utmost comfort and utility with its 1 mm thinness [illegible] does away with that bulky feeling women complain about. It also has an AIRFLO back sheet that allows air to circulate and releases skin dampness.

The inner absorbent layer adds to the drier, fresher feeling. The new contour shape gives a better and more comfortable fit, a premium for active women. The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner is available in scented (Shower Fresh) and unscented variants.

Carefre[illegible] uly understands the needs of today's wom[illegible] come up with products tha[illegible] make women feel fresh and comfortable [illegible]ry day.

The New Carefree G-String Panty Liners and New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners are now available in leading supermarkets.

Carefree Innovates for the modern woman

The Introduction of Thong underwear has given us the answer to hiding those unsightly panty lines when we try to dress our best. Yet, the panty liners we wear everyday don't particularly fit our thongs. Carefree, the No. 1 brand of Panty Liners, introduces a product that addresses the need for freshness and comfort even while wearing thongs.

New Carefree G-String Panty Liners is the latest innovation from the brand that clearly understands women's needs. In developing this new variant to their already diverse line, Carefree knows that today's woman makes choices and she is now able to make choices with regards to her everyday hygiene. No longer will she have to be uncomfortable due to fashion constraints. One can now feel good, look good and stay fresh and comfortable.

The new Carefree G-String Panty Liner's innovative design is shaped like a thong and has adhesive wings so that it stays in place, its comfort and design is so created so that you won't even know it's there.

Carefree knows what today's woman needs and it has innovated a product that gives women comfort and freshness as she carries off her own sense of style.

New Carefree G-String Panty Liners are available in leading supermarkets.

Carefree launches airier, thinner, better liner

To feel dry and fresh all day, it is recommended that women wear panty liners on a regular basis. However, many complain about wearing them because they feel uncomfortable and leave them with a "bulky feeling." Carefree, the No. 1 brand of Panty Liners introduces a product that will do away with this uncomfortable feeling.

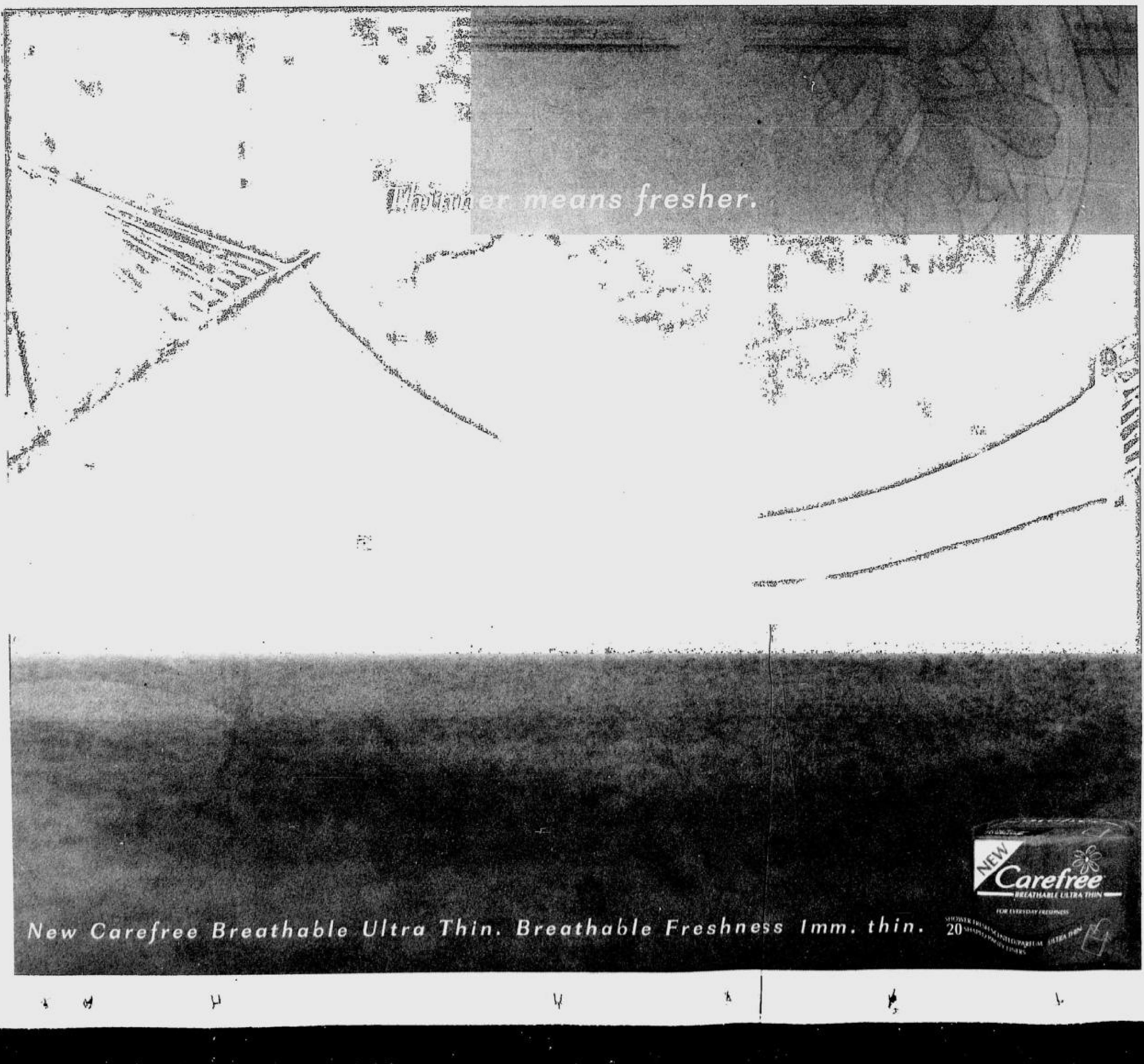
The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner promises the utmost comfort and utility with its 1 mm thinness that does away with that bulky feeling women sometimes complain about. It also has an AIRFLO back sheet that allows air to circulate and releases skin dampness.

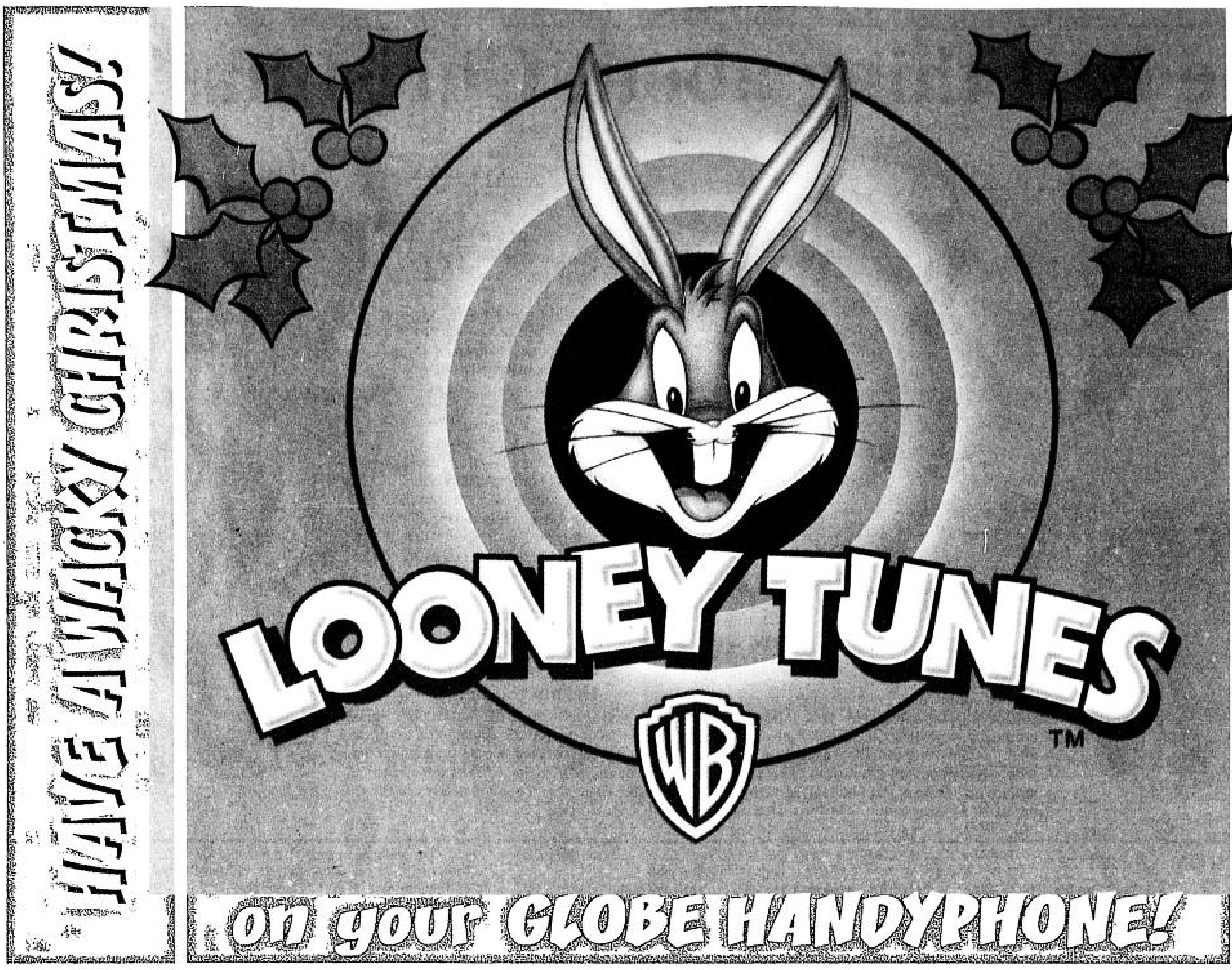
The inner absorbent layer adds to the drier, fresher feeling. The new contour shape gives a better and more comfortable fit, a premium for active women. The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liner is available in scented (Shower Fresh) and unscented variants.

Carefree truly understands the needs of today's women and has come up with a product that will make women dry and fresh all day, every day.

The New Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners are now available in leading supermarkets.

Carefree G-String Panty Liners and Carefree Breathable Ultra Thin Panty Liners

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O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
ODE TO JOY
SILENT NIGHT
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE C
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TO
SLEIGH RIDE
CHRISTMAS SONG
CHRISTMAS WALTZ
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
LAST CHRISTMAS
THE FIRST NOEL
WHITE CHRISTMAS
JINGLE BELLS

[illegible]

Title
BAG IT UP
BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF
CASE OF THE EX
CHARLIE'S ANGEL
CLINT EASTWOOD
DRIVE
FIESTA
GIVING YOU MORE
GROW OLD WITH YOU
LADY MARMALADE
ROLLIN
S CLUB PARTY
SCHOOL'S OUT
SUPERMAN (It's Not Easy)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 1)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 3)
YOU AND ME
OYE COMO VA
TEQUILA

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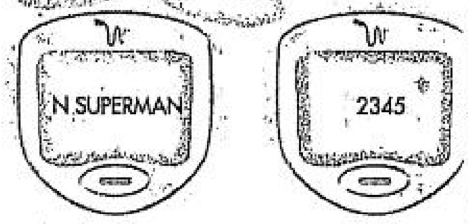
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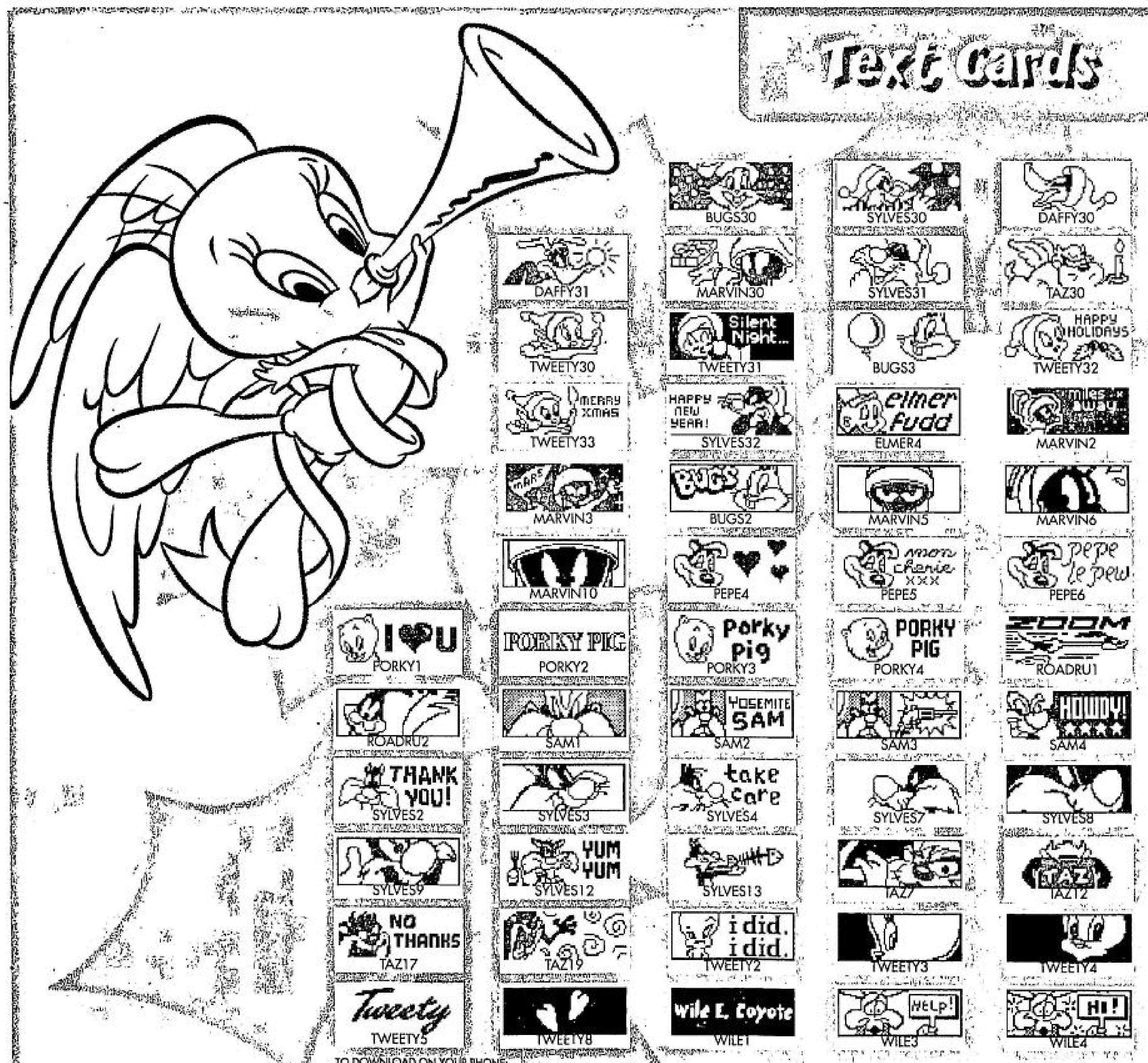
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SYLVES30
DAFFY30
DAFFY31
MARVIN30
SYLVES31
TAZ30
TWEETY30
Silent Night...
TWEETY31
BUGS3
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TWEETY32
MERRY XMAS
TWEETY33
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SYLVES32
elmer fudd
ELMER4
MARVIN2
MARVIN3
BUGS
BUGS2
MARVIN5
MARVIN6
MARVIN10
PEPE4
mon cherie xxx
PEPE5
pepe le pew
PEPE6
I ♥ U
PORKY1
PORKY PIG
PORKY2
Porky Pig
PORKY3
PORKY PIG
PORKY4
ZOOM
ROADRU1
ROADRU2
SAM1
YOSEMITE SAM
SAM2
SAM3
HOWDY!
SAM4
THANK YOU!
SYLVES2
SYLVES3
take care
SYLVES4
SYLVES7
SYLVES8
SYLVES9
YUM YUM
SYLVES12
SYLVES13
TAZ7
TAZ
TAZ12
NO THANKS
TAZ17
TAZ19
i did. i did.
TWEETY2
TWEETY3
TWEETY4
Tweety
TWEETY5
TWEETY8
Wile E. Coyote
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HELP!
WILE3
HI!
WILE4

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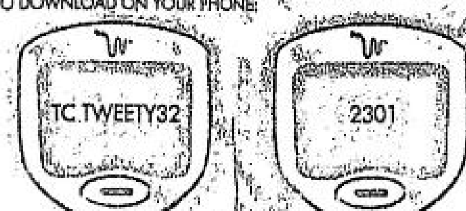
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Sendo: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

Tones:
Nokia : 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8810,8850,8890,9110&9210
Ericsson : GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18s, T20s Ericsson users must encode their ringtones using the Tone Guide.
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	auldlang
	godrest
	ocome
	ode2joy
	silentni
HRISTMAS	havurslf
IKE CHRISTMAS	luksxmas
WN	santatwn
	sleighri
	xmassong
	xmaswltz
	frosty
	ilbhome
	lastxmas
	1stnoel
	whtxmas
	jinglebel

Keywords	Artist
bagitup	GERI HALIWELL
butrcup	various artists
cantake1	ANDY WILLIAMS
caseof1	MAYA
charlies	CHARLIE'S ANGEL THEME
clinteast	GORRILAZ
drive	INCUBUS
fiests	R. KELLY/JAY-Z
givingyo	AALIYAH
growold	ADAM SANDLER
ladymarm	ALL SAINTS
rollin	LIMP BIZKIT
sclub	S CLUB 7
schools2	ALICE COOPER
superman	FIVE FOR FIGHTING
uptown	WESTLIFE
uptown3	WESTLIFE
youandme	SAINT
oyecomo1	SANTANA
tequila	CHUCK RIO

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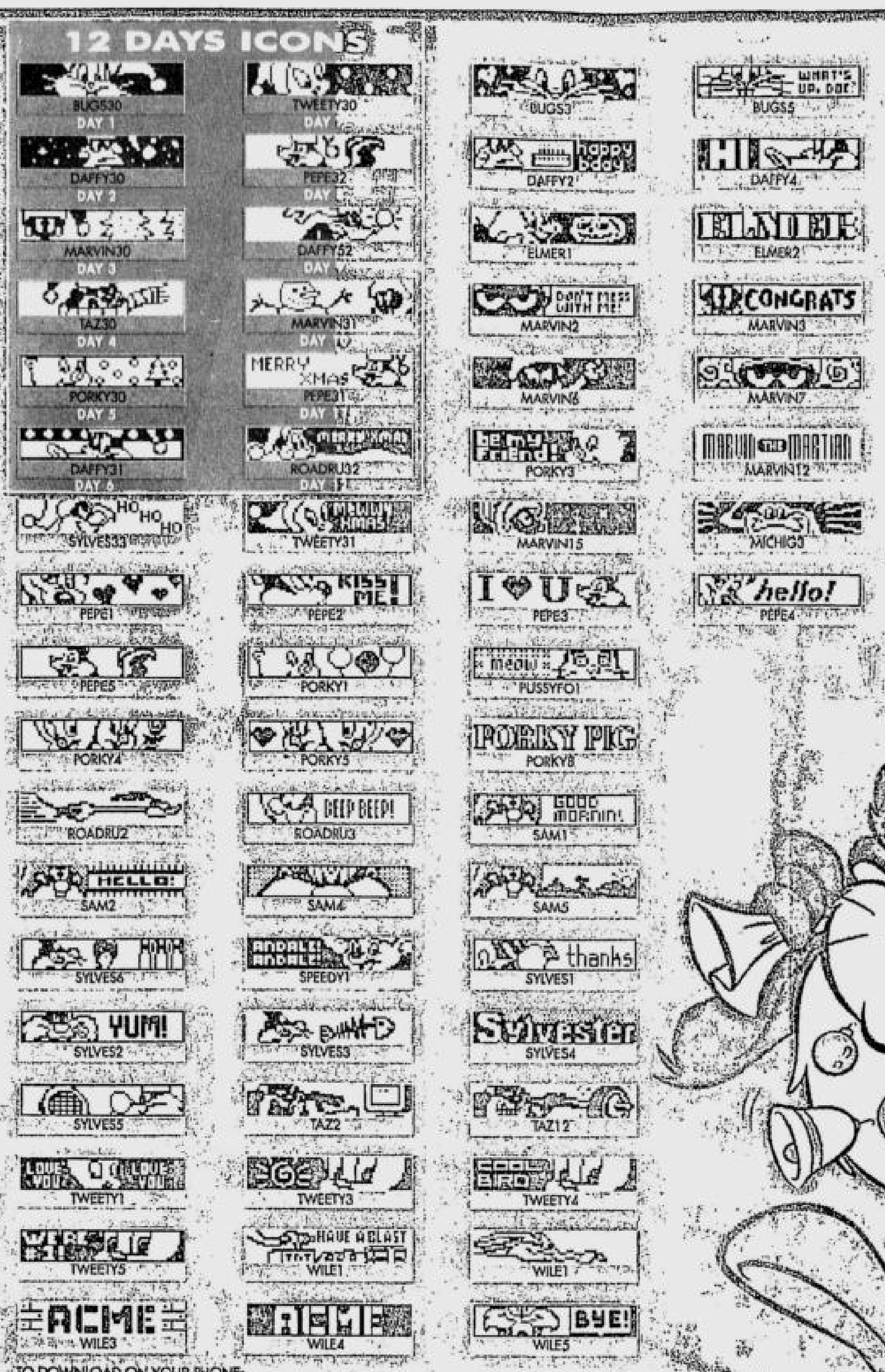
Icons


12 DAYS ICONS
BUGS30
DAY 1
TWEETY30
DAY 1
DAFFY30
DAY 2
PEPE32
DAY
MARVIN30
DAY 3
DAFFY52
DAY
TAZ30
DAY 4
MARVIN31
DAY
PORKY30
DAY 5
MERRY XMAS
PEPE31
DAY 1
DAFFY31
DAY 6
ROADRU32
DAY 1
BUGS3
WHAT'S UP, DOC?
BUGS5
happy bday
DAFFY2
HI
DAFFY4
ELMER1
ELMER
ELMER2
DON'T MESS WITH ME!
MARVIN2
CONGRATS
MARVIN3
MARVIN6
MARVIN7
be my Friend
PORKY3
MARVIN THE MARTIAN
MARVIN12
HO HO HO
SYLVES33
MERRY XMAS
TWEETY31
MARVIN15
MICHIG3
PEPE1
KISS ME!
PEPE2
I ♥ U
PEPE3
hello!
PEPE4
PEPE5
PORKY1
meow
PUSSYFO1
PORKY4
PORKY5
PORKY PIG
PORKY8
ROADRU2
BEEP BEEP!
ROADRU3
GOOD MORNIN!
SAM1
HELLO!
SAM2
SAM4
SAM5
SYLVES6
ANDALE! ANDALE!
SPEEDY1
thanks
SYLVES1
YUM!
SYLVES2
SYLVES3
Sylvester
SYLVES4
SYLVES5
TAZ2
TAZ12
LOVE YOU
TWEETY1
TWEETY3
COOL BIRD
TWEETY4
TWEETY5
HAVE A BLAST
WILE1
WILE1
ACME
WILE3
ACME
WILE4
BYE!
WILE5

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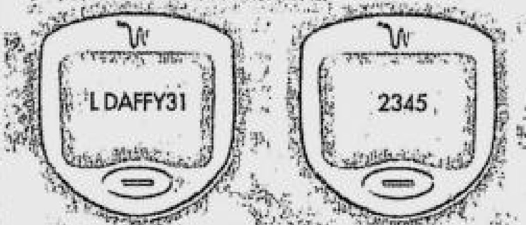
L DAFFY31
2345

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1. Download a Looney Tunes icon starting December 14 to 25 by sending the keyword "12days" to 2345 - there will be one assigned Looney Tunes icon per day. For every successful download a participant earns an electronically-generated and recorded raffle entry for a chance to win a Looney Tunes doll for the lucky 25th, 100th, 200th and 300th entry. They can also win a Nokia 3330 Prepaid Plus phonekit with two Looney Tunes covers via raffle draw.
2. The winners of both the Nokia 3330 Prepaid Plus phonekit with two Looney Tunes covers and Looney Tunes dolls will be drawn on December 26, 2001. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the activity. Only Globe Handyphone subscribers who downloaded a "12days" icon from December 14 to 25 will qualify. All subscribers who downloaded a "12days" icon during the promo period qualify for the grand raffle.
3. The grand raffle draw will be held at WSA Office Unit 102 Alabang Business Tower, 1216 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. Winners will be notified by a registered mail and will be called on their winning Globe Handyphones. Prizes may be claimed from the Globe Telecom office, 4th Flr. Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong starting December 27, 2001. Winners need to bring a valid ID with picture and the winning SIM card when claiming their prize. Claiming is good until 60 days from receipt of notification.
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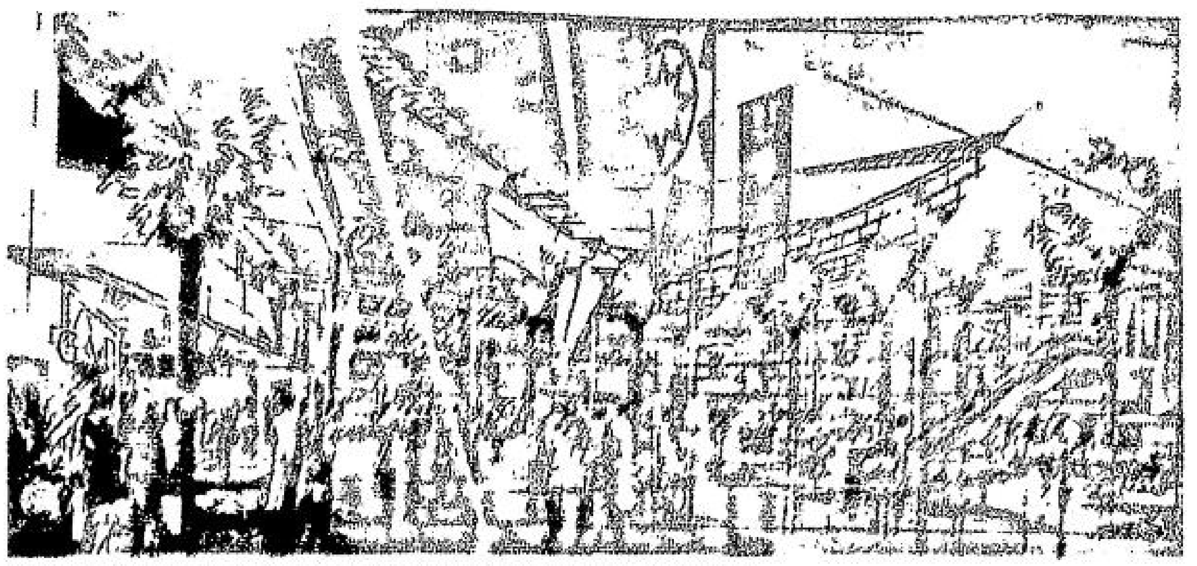
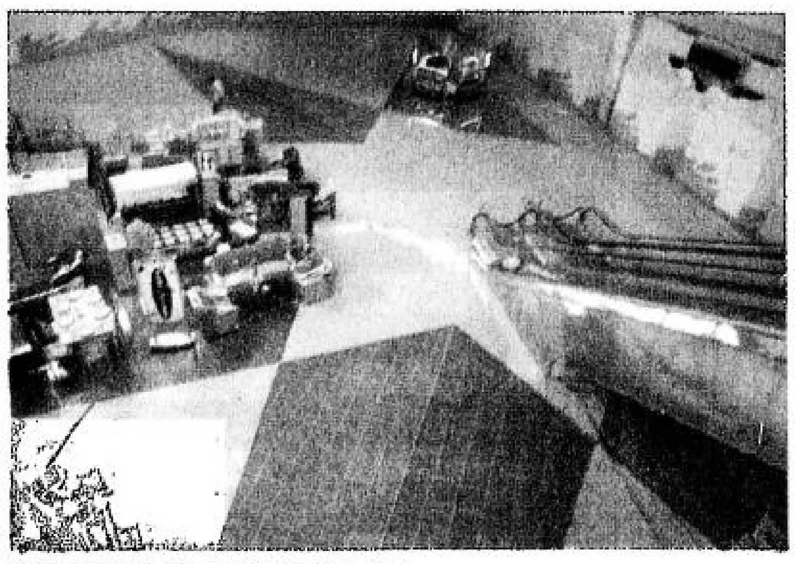


ARCHITECT'S rendition of one of Robinsons Starmills' interiors

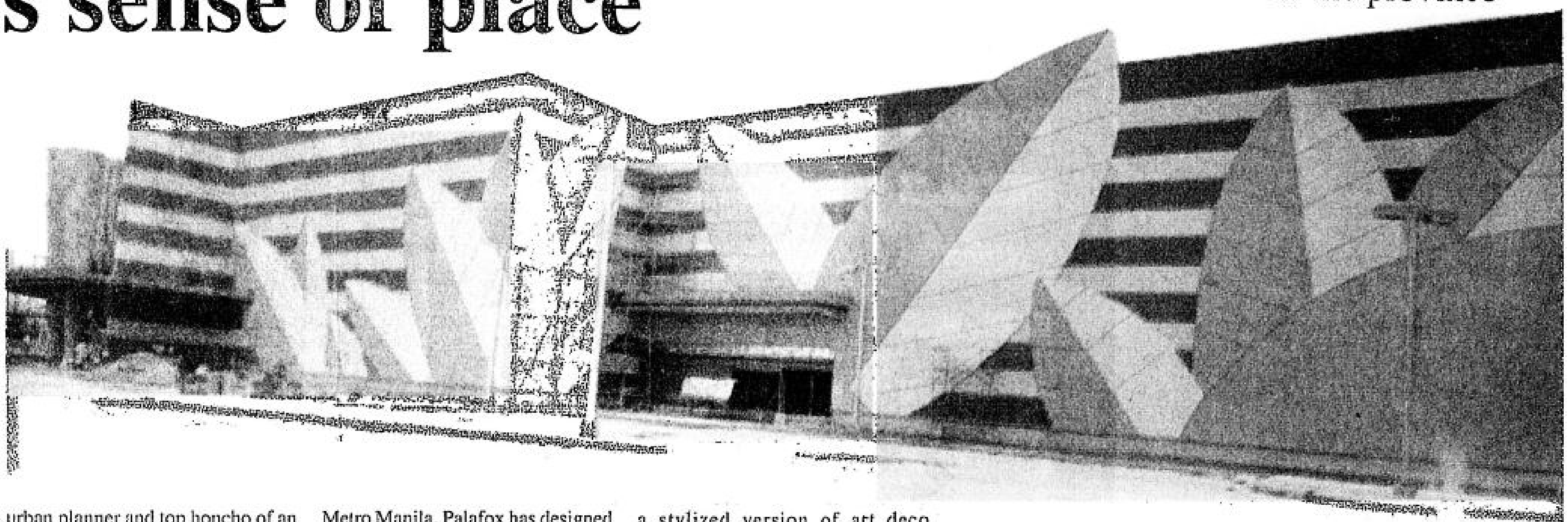


STAR pattern in a high-traffic area

A mall's sense of place

The design of the new Robinsons Starmills in Pampanga draws inspiration from the topography and culture of the province

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



THE MALL chain known for its innovative architecture and thematic interiors has drawn inspiration from Pampanga's colorful Christmas lanterns and the region's diverse topography, wildlife and vegetation for its newest mall in San Fernando, Pampanga, aptly named Robinsons Starmills.

Located on a 28-hectare site several meters away from the North Diversion Road that cuts through San Fernando, Robinsons Starmills, says its architect Felino Palafox Jr., is a 21st-century concept that departs from the usual "introverted" layout so common among malls a decade ago. It aims to bridge both traditional and modern-day elements.

"We got out of the usual box of a mall," says Palafox, also a seasoned urban planner and top honcho of an architectural firm that carries his name, "and came up with a structure the celebrates the colors of San Fernando, Pampanga."

For one, it's not hard to miss the mall as one drives through the highway. Instead of resorting to drab, gray shades and straight, boring lines that characterize most malls in Metro Manila, Palafox has designed a sprawling two-story structure (62,000 sq m of floor space!) with various patterns and irregular lines.

Vibrant colors

The exterior is made more interesting, thanks to his use of vibrant color combinations, most of them in refreshing pastels. The architect resorted to a stylized version of art deco architecture by combining such elements as irregular walls and circular glass entrances surrounded by several concrete pylons in deep peach.

"We used more than 50 colors inside and outside," says Palafox. The building's key elements pay tribute to Central Luzon's natural wonders. The Robinsons Department Store's exterior, for instance, is spruced up with huge sunbursts of leaves in deep green and warm ochre inspired by the region's lush vegetation. Central Luzon, after all, is the country's rice granary.

He pays tribute to the region's mountains with irregular formations that loom on the foreground of the opposite wing's surface. The area houses the newly opened Big R Super Center, a so-called hypermart that sells, among others, fresh produce, meat, poultry and seafood. Aside from Mt. Arayat, Palafox has drawn inspiration from a mountain chain that includes Mt. Pinatubo in neighboring Zambales.

Focal points

Other focal points include several viewing decks and a nearly constructed lighthouse behind the building that, says Palafox, adds to the mall's *poblacion* feel. "Distinguishing landmarks such as the lighthouse are designed to impart among shoppers a strong sense of place. We envision this mall to be what the *poblacion* was to shoppers of yesteryears."

That's why unlike the first wave of supermalls, Robinsons Starmills has allotted considerable space for plazas that double as activity centers, outdoor cafés and al fresco restaurants. "The architecture is more extroverted," says Palafox. "Several shops face the façade. All doors that lead to the mall are front entrances."

The mall's interiors are a totally different story. Six entrances with corresponding lobbies lead to two huge plazas, seven atriums and, of course, numerous shops and restaurants that are expected to open one after the other in the coming weeks and months. Aside from Big R, Robinsons Department Store opened two Fridays ago to serve Christmas shoppers. Six cinemas are set to open sometime in January.

All atriums and walkways are connected to a central atrium dubbed as the Star Circle. Once finished, the area will boast of a fountain—a signature element in every Robinsons mall—underneath a grand staircase that leads to the second floor. A food court, which can accommodate up to 600 diners, overlooks the central atrium where the water feature will be located. "It will be different from existing Robinsons fountains," Palafox assures.

Unifying element

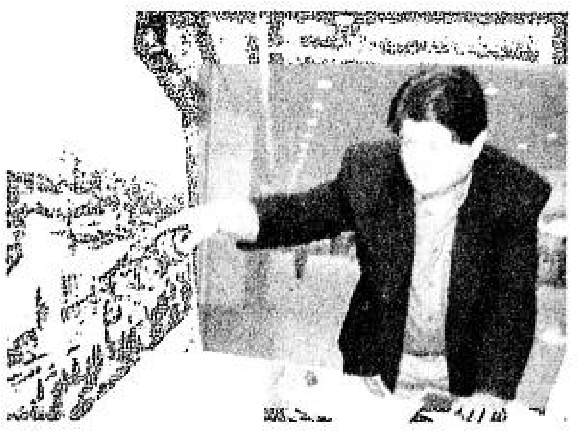
The unifying emblem inside is the *parol* or Christmas lantern reflected on the pattern of floor tiles and exposed ceiling trusses found in several high-traffic areas. One has to be blind or a clone of Scrooge to miss the larger-than-life stars of Bethlehem rendered in such disparate media as multicolored tiles and gold-painted steel. And the good news is they're here to stay beyond the current Yuletide season.

Palafox's liberal use of natural light is another noticeable albeit more subtle indoor element. Again, this is evident in such public areas as atriums, lobbies and plazas. Instead of skylight, however, he resorted to a series of clerestory windows that allow the outside in. Wide walkways and high ceilings further impart the huge mall with an illusion of space.

Still, the building's piece de resistance, says Palafox, is a towering structure made from a careful interplay of steel, glass and concrete that jut out of the façade's center and crowned by an irregular roof. Some people behind the mall initially found the structure, which is still undergoing construction, expensive if impossible to make, so the architect had to put his foot down and insist on its inclusion. For lack of a better term, he calls the structure, which resembles an airport's control tower, the "wow."

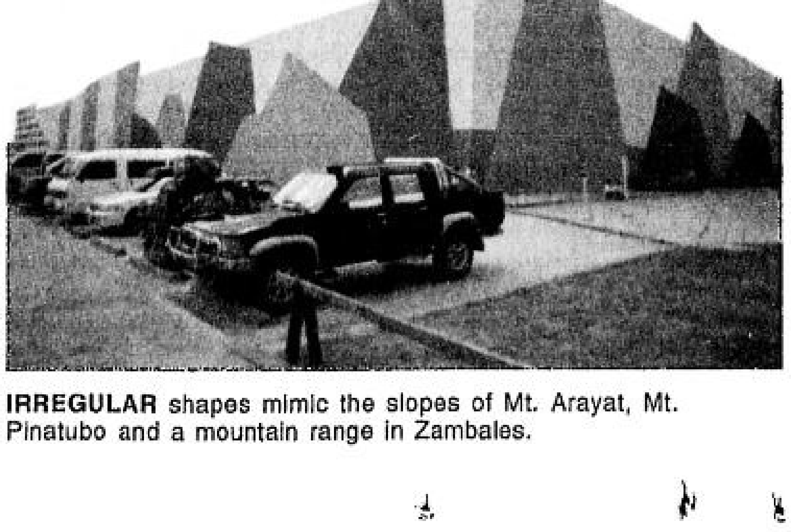
"Aside from making shopping pleasurable," he says, "people behind Robinsons Starmills want shoppers to experience something unique and memorable every time they come out of the mall." That boxed-in feeling will soon become a thing of the past.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



A [illegible]URST of [illegible]eave[illegible] o[illegible] the [illegible]sing Ro[illegible] Department Store

ARCHITECT Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr.



IRREGULAR shapes mimic the slopes of Mt. Arayat, Mt. Pinatubo and a mountain range in Zambales.

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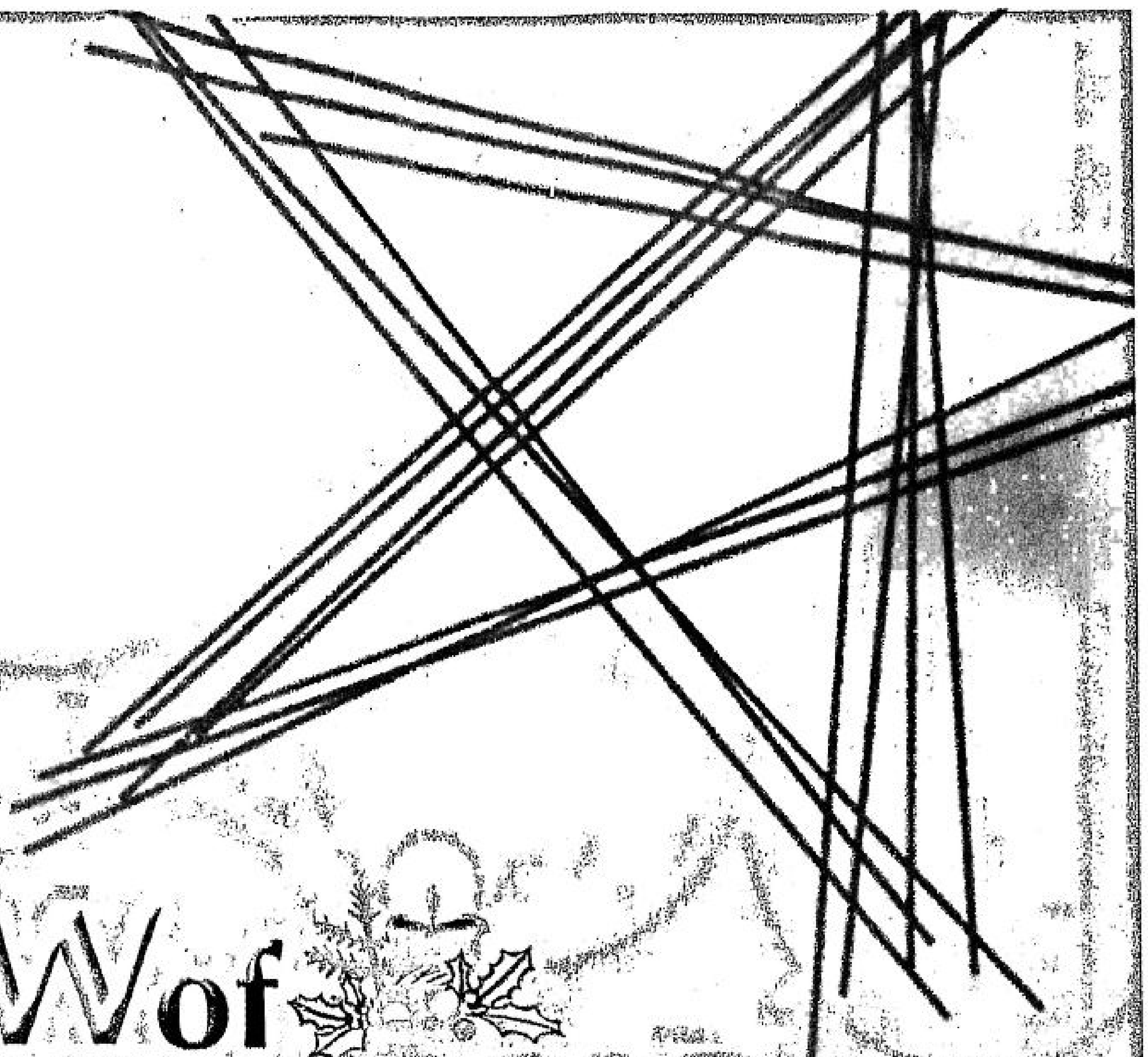

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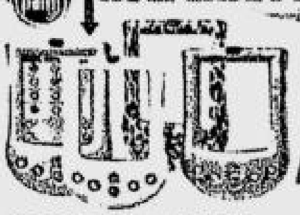
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A Christmas twice blessed for Aga and Charlene *page D4*

JV Ejercito misses Dad *page D4*

A new home for the holidays for Dennis and Tessa Valdes *page D6*

Jani Nitullano shops like there's no tomorrow *page D3*

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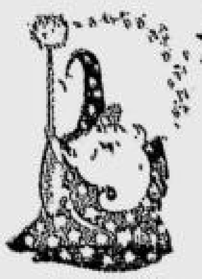

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The matter of presents

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

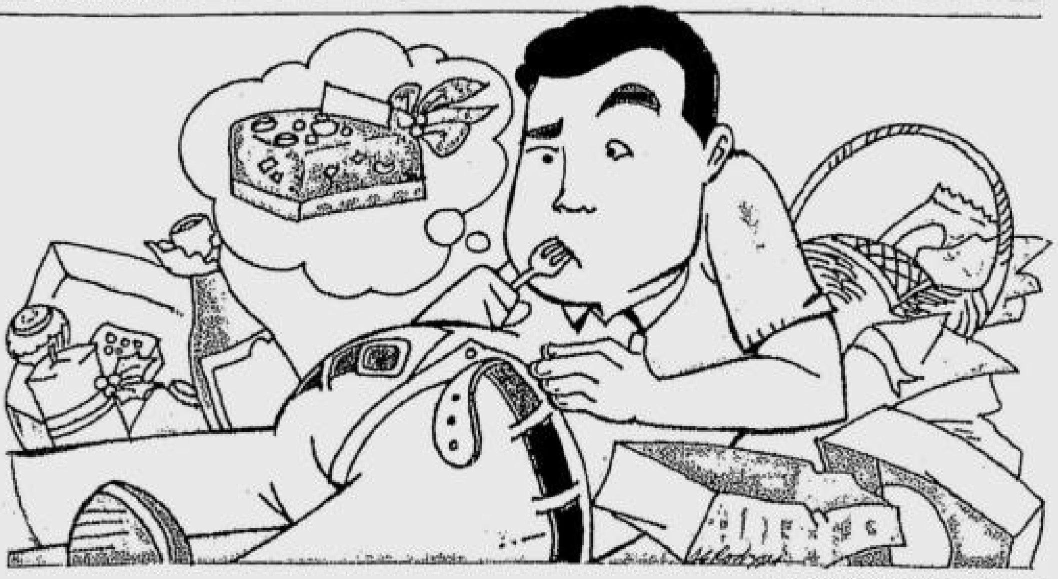


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

AS a small business owner (one who owns a small business, not one who owns a business and is small) I tended to have a somewhat vague approach to bookkeeping: mathematics had never been a strength of mine, and I operated on the general principle that if the amount coming in was a positive real number greater than or equal to the amount going out, it was a favorable situation. But while my friends were generally in a good mood on the 15th and 30th of the month, this was when my bank balance mysteriously dipped, and I would have to scrounge about for cash hidden under the mattress. And every year, I unfailingly manage to forget about the "13th month" payroll, bonuses for the staff and household help, and the surly security guards who have transmogrified overnight into smiling cherubs, eager to assist and wish you the best for the holidays.

Then there's the matter of the presents. One of my closest friends and I have worked out a system in which we give each other Christmas gifts, but not necessarily at Christmastime. For instance, this year I received mine in May; he received his just a few weeks ago. Other people are less understanding, and what usually happens is that I find myself in the awkward position of receiving gifts but having nothing to give in return: not just because I haven't thought of anything, but because I don't have any money. The result is that I become the equivalent of Narita Airport for Northwest flights: a hub where a routine security check for incendiary devices and concealed weapons is carried out; then they are duly dispatched to destinations where they'll no doubt be better appreciated. Many of these presents find their way to my mother, who is the equivalent of Atlanta, a domestic hub at which the gifts are collated for delivery to sisters, cousins and aunts.

Ever since the joke about the six fruitcakes that circulate the globe at Christmastime, fewer and fewer people make, or give, fruitcakes. This is a pity, since I actually rather like fruitcake. Last year, I believe I ate five of them; the sixth was found in an abandoned dumpsite in Cavite, with signs of violation and a hair sample which is still undergoing analysis. These days, some rather eerie trends have developed. Giving sacks of rice, for example: on some Fridays, I've seen entire groups of people, who I suppose are employed by the same proprietor, staggering about on their weekly night out with sacks of rice slung about their shoulders. Ditto for huge bags of toilet paper: there is no questioning that it is a useful gift, but do you really want to be remembered fondly every day at that particular moment of someone's morning routine?

> I've asked around, and discovered, to great shock: no one has yet received a single fruitcake this Christmas! Scented candles with raffia have become the new fruitcake, it would seem

Abstract gifts

On the other side of the scale or those annoyingly abstract gifts. A fire-insurance plan is definitely of value, but not really something I can clutch and jump up and down with joy with. Magazine subscriptions are a little better, since they usually come with a gift; I remember, for instance, a digital clock embedded in a ruler (it's always useful to know the time when you're measuring something). Or I open an envelope to find that I am the benevolent donor to a charitable cause of some sort. The document looked fairly genuine, although it did plant the idea in my mind to simply mail all my friends a letter informing them I had donated P5,000 in their name to the Wei Lin Shi Wildlife Foundation, and here's a picture of the baby panda you've just adopted.

Even if I had the money, though, I would be hard-pressed to find the proper gift for each of my friends. It's a common mistake to give people something associated with their profession or their hobby, since they are likely to have very specific needs or tastes. An opera buff, for instance, would probably already have all the arias to be found on "Opera's Greatest Hits… Ever!" in his collection. And I've always found it not in the best of taste to ask people directly: "So what do you want for Christmas?" if only because I find myself in an uncomfortable position when asked, unless it's a parent or a girlfriend (a ticket to Paris and back, not having to say sorry for the next three fights, respectively). A previous British ambassador to America was once asked by the Washington Post what he wanted for Christmas; he said it would not be right for him to accept such a gift. The editor insisted, and he finally relented and said that a small box of crystallized fruits could do no harm. The next day he read in the paper: "The Soviet ambassador wants further progress on disarmament for Christmas and New Year. The French ambassador wants peace in the Middle East. The British ambassador wants a small box of crystallized fruits."

Meanwhile, there are always those godfatherly sort of people who somehow manage to insinuate, short of depositing a horses' head on your mattress, that they expect some sort of tribute to acknowledge their "protection." There are also friends and semi-acquaintances who are miffed at not receiving a present and simply stop acknowledging your acquaintance altogether, at least until next Christmas, or in some cases, forever. Since I don't give Christmas gifts even to my closest friends, it seems offensive to actually force oneself to give gifts to these sorts, who deserve them least. The repercussions of these unintended slights can be dire: nasty rumors in society columns, bad reviews for one's restaurant, or the unexpected truncation of what one thought was a meaningful friendship. But for someone to condemn one's social or professional life or end a friendship over the nonpresence of a small box of crystallized fruits seems to me to be a good indication that these are not people one should want in one's life.

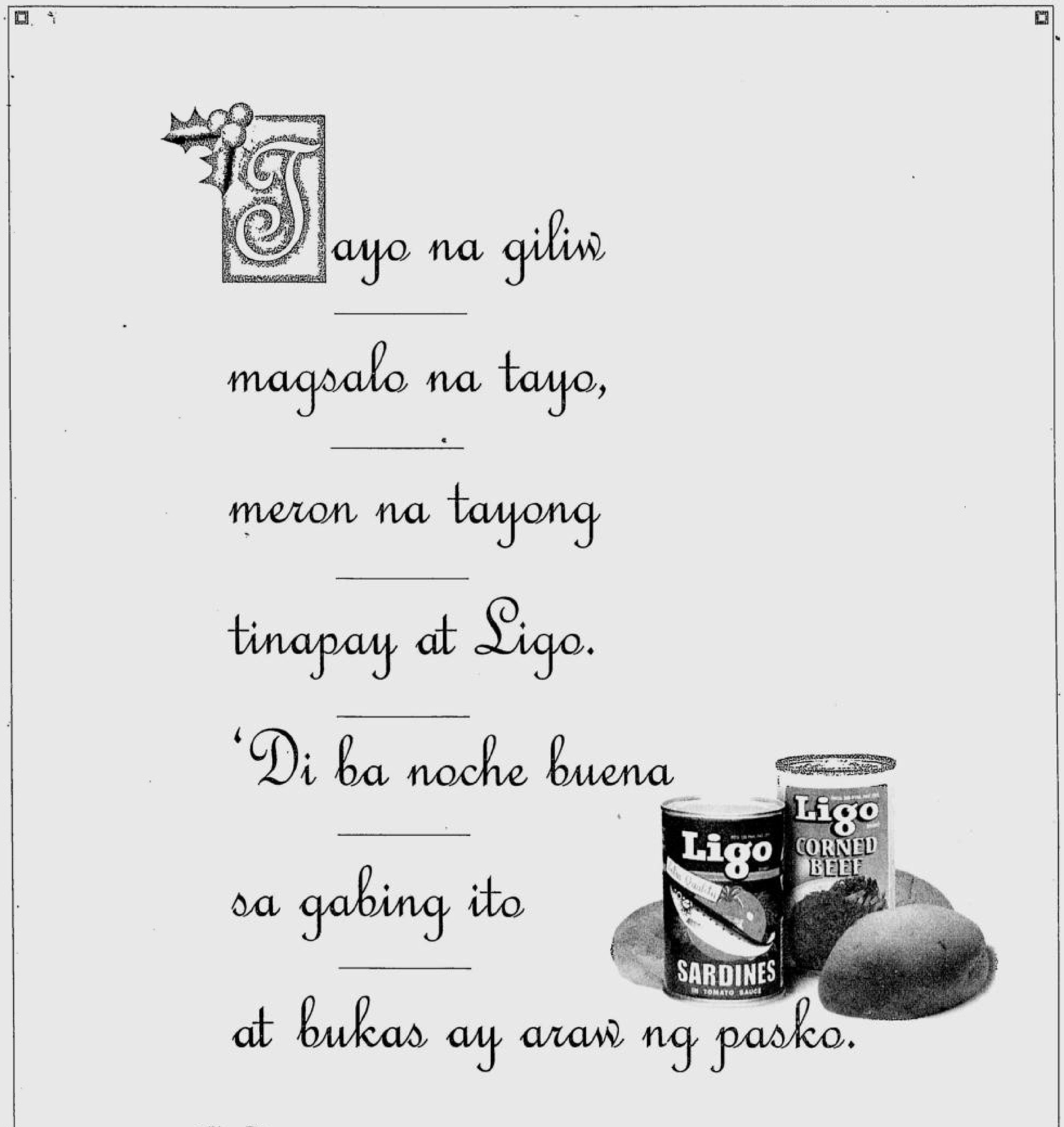
Bah, humbug, indeed! Yes, I do sound like a Scrooge who should be condemned to nightly visits by oracular phantoms, which actually sounds like it would save me a few trips to the neighborhood fortune-teller. It's not that I don't appreciate Christmas gifts at all: once in a while I receive a gift that is so appropriate, well-thought out, or the result of careful labor, that their impact is unforgettable; especially if they had bought it in March and had been saving it at a surprise. (Books and music are the most difficult to get right; but when they do hit the mark, it's like hitting the G-spot.) But I cannot help but scoff at the sincerity of people who give me doubtlessly expensive but not particularly useful gifts at Christmas, but are mysteriously absent, difficult to locate, very busy, "going through a bad time," or nursing a permanent sudden attack of bronchitis. I've been accused of "testing" friendships with these unexpected demands or calls for help. But "tests" are examinations administered for a purpose; an arrogant prick like myself would never ask for help when it isn't needed: I tend to think of these instances as moments of lucidity that prove the strength of our friendship or relationship; and five minutes of their time, a return call, an answered e-mail, or an unexpected visit, are more valuable than a box of crystallized fruits.

Food gifts

Not that there's anything wrong with crystallized fruits; indeed, I like them very much, and would be hard-pressed to choose between some well-made orange peel dipped in chocolate and peace in the Middle East. As a matter of fact, if one must give gifts for Christmas, food is always a safe way to go. At a recent dinner-party, the semiosis of gift-giving came up as a topic: one girl postulated that if a girl gives a guy food or anything to eat (as opposed to, say, a Mercedes-Benz), it means that she is romantically interested in him. To which I pointed out that even within the realm of food, the implications of any attempt at interpretation (in most cases, overinterpretation) are not only endless, but futile. There are obvious exceptions: a girl who presents me with a soft-boiled egg tied with a ribbon would not exactly send me immediately blushing. I also pointed out that "anything to eat" could also be body parts, and the presentation of a nipple or clitoris for one's delectation is not necessarily a sign of romance but merely of sexual abandon (unless, of course, it does not come attached to the sender's body).

So if one must, food is the best way to go for

THE MATTER/ p.D7



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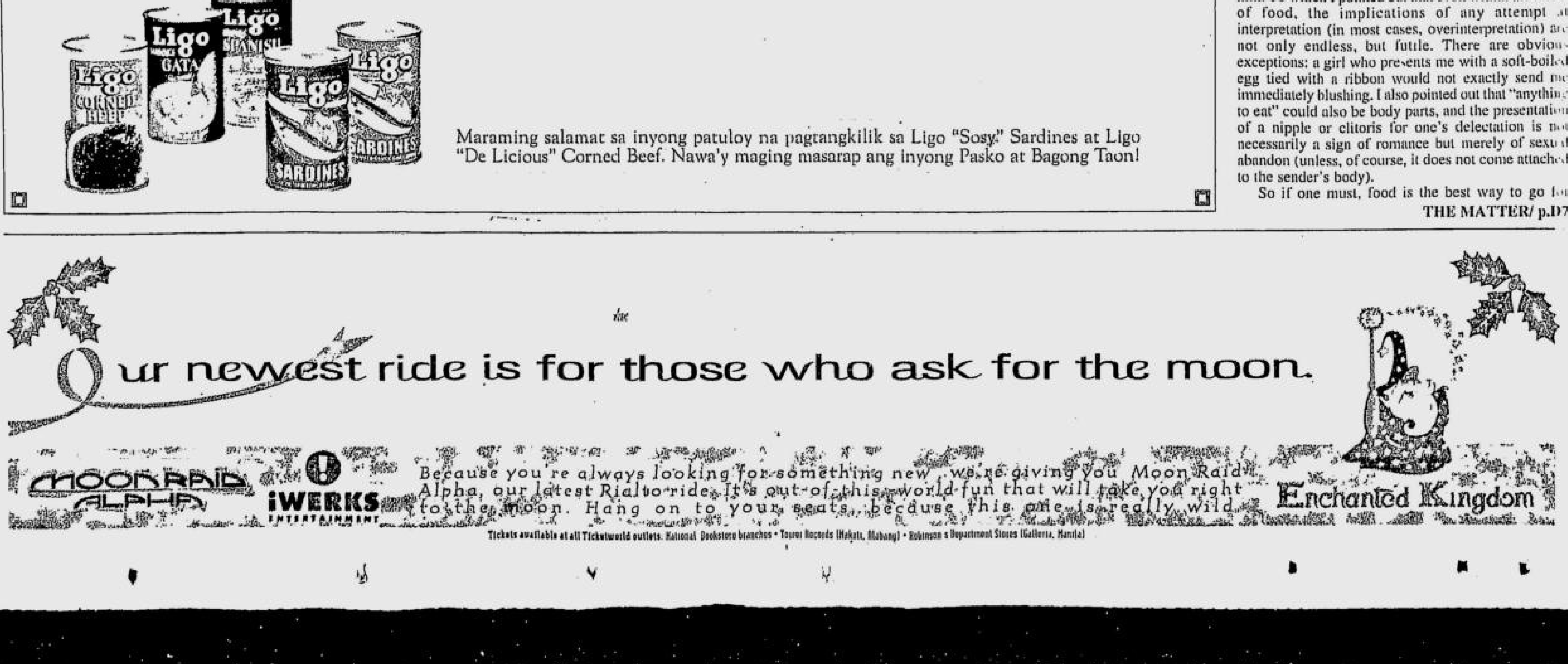

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Shop like there's no tomorrow she did

BY ANNE A. JAMBORA

GOOD things happen to good people, especially around Christmas.

Lejani "Jani" Nitullano has been diligently putting away a little amount from her salary since June so she can give presents to her family on Christmas Day—never mind if she hasn't been with them for the holidays for the past two years.

By December, her savings amounted to P10,000. "I knew P10,000 wasn't much," she says, but putting other people's needs ahead of hers and making them happy has always been her lifework. Besides, fate is often good to her—she usually wins at raffle draws.

One Sunday morning, barely three days after receiving her brand-new credit card, older sister May urged Jani (pronounced "Honey") to go on a shopping spree. Jani finally relented and called Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) to activate her account.

Unbelievable news

She could not believe what she heard. The voice at the other end told her she won in the HSBC Red Mastercard's "Shop Like There's No Tomorrow, Spend P500,000 in One Day" promo.

"There are so many pranksters these days who call you up and say you won this or that, [and ask you to] pick up the prize on [a particular] date and hour, and then rob you blind when you get there," Jani says. But May, one of the first to learn of the good news, was convinced. After several phone calls to HSBC, Jani finally was also persuaded that the news was true. She finally informed her family— three days after she first heard of her prize.

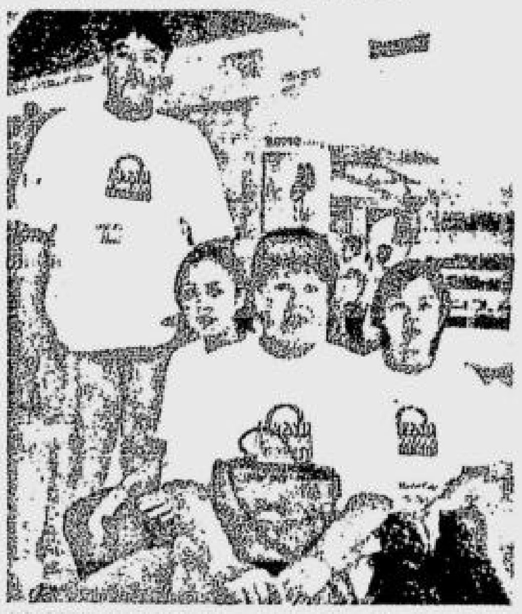
The irony is that
the HSBC winner does
not even like shopping

The irony is that Jani does not even like shopping. "I don't like staying in malls for hours. When I want to buy something, it takes me an hour—two hours at the most—then I head back home," she says. She'd rather bake, watch a movie, or eat out than spend hours shopping, not even if she had the money to do it every day.

"Before I hit the malls I already know what I want to buy, or at least I already have an idea. Trying on clothes, taking them off, and trying on

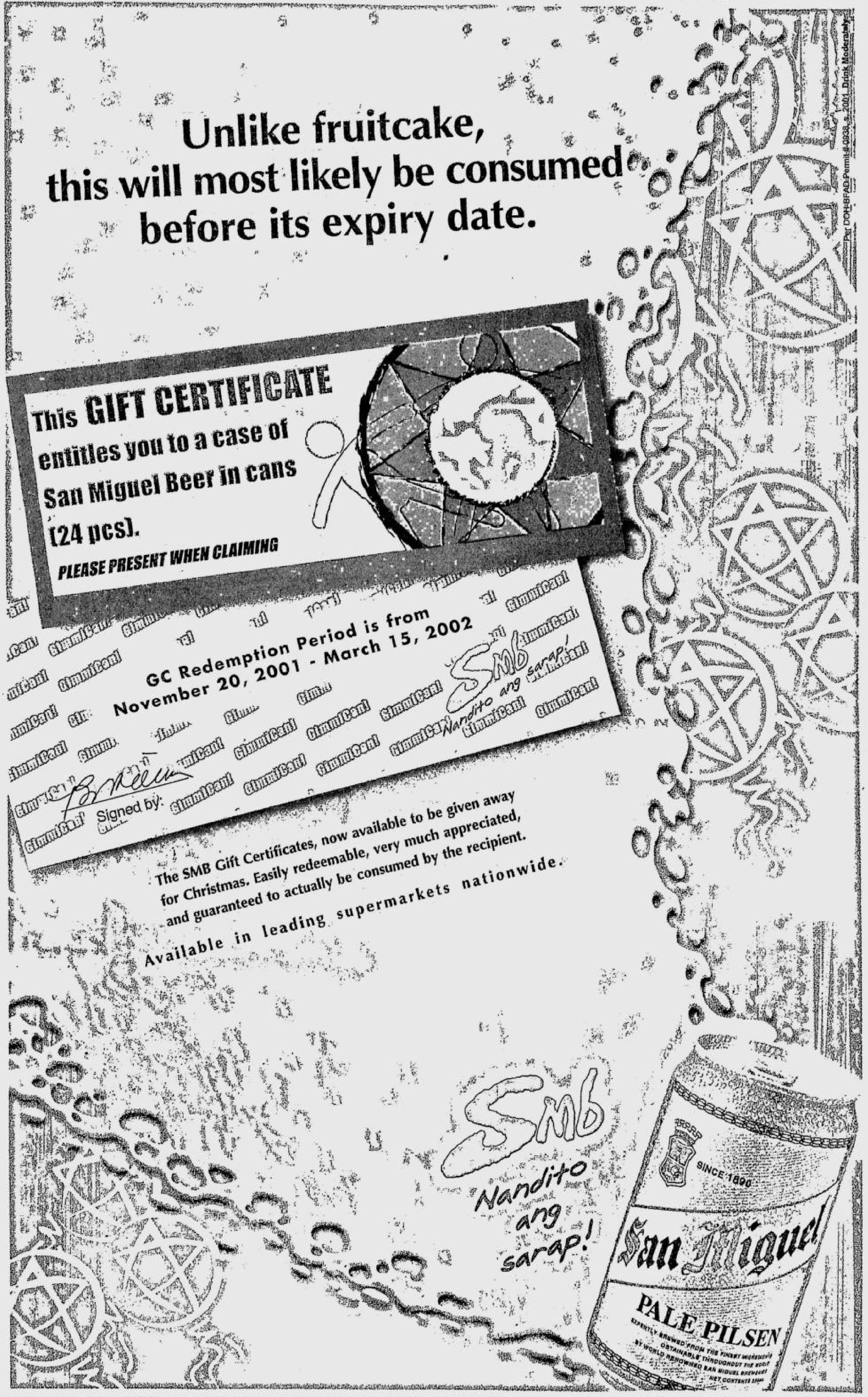
SHOP/ p.D6

LEJANI Nitullano shows off the HSBC Red Mastercard loaded with P500,000 presented to her by James Benoit, HSBC SVP for marketing, personal finance services.



LUCKY KIN. Nitullano's brother Mark, sisters May and Tiffany, and mother Glenda

MAGNANIMOUS. She shares her winnings with her relatives—all 16 of them.



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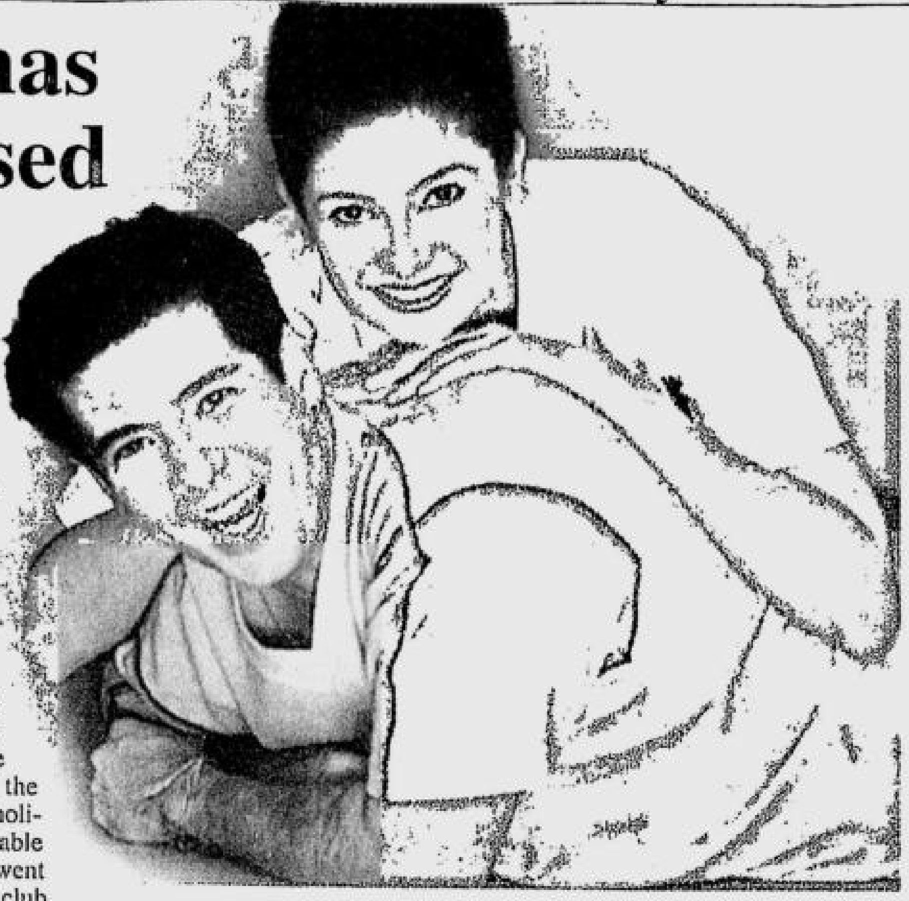
A Christmas twice blessed

By Cathy Babao Guballa



WHAT more can Aga and Charlene Muhlach ask for?

CHARLENE Gonzales is a woman fulfilled. Her voice resonates with the joy and peace that comes from knowing she is truly loved by husband Aga Muhlach, whom she speaks of with much love and admiration. "I couldn't ask for anything more. This Christmas is truly complete," she says in a voice brimming with joy.

Twins Atasha and Andres, born on Nov. 5, make Aga and Charlene's first Christmas as a family extremely happy and blessed. On the day of the interview the couple together with the twins had just arrived from a Baguio holiday where, Charlene says, "We were able to reminisce about the wedding as we went around the city—the church, country club. All of the great memories from our wedding just came back," she says.

The couple was also able to bond with the twins who are now 6 weeks old. "They grow so fast," Charlene says with great motherly pride. Born at a little over 5 pounds, Atasha now weighs 8 pounds and Andres, 10 pounds.

Center

Clearly, the babies are the center of the Muhlachs' lovely Mediterranean-inspired home in Alabang, which Charlene was able to deck in traditional and festive red and green. "We bought the babies mostly clothes but realized that they are only able to wear them for a short time because they grow so quickly," she says laughing. "They hardly fit in the infant car seats that we bought for them just before they were born."

Describing her babies, the proud mama says Andres takes more after the Muhlach side of the family and is really so much like Aga's father Cheng. "Even now you can see the resemblance," she says. Daughter Atasha, on the other hand, is "*ateng-ate* (big sister). She's very easy and calm."

Enjoying motherhood to the hilt, Charlene basks in the love of Aga who is equally devoted in caring for his new babies. Doting on the twins with a capital D, he eagerly and willingly shares in all the responsibilities—feeding, bathing, and changing. "I couldn't ask for anything more," Charlene says. "He's really been so supportive from the moment that he found out I was pregnant—emotionally, psychologically, physically. You know how it is when you're pregnant and your hormones go crazy. With Aga, he deliberately didn't take on any major projects except for his weekly television show and some commercials. He was there for me a hundred-and-one percent," Charlene says. And now she finds great delight in discovering that Aga's devotion to the twins is just as fervent.

With their twin firstborn, Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales have more than one reason to celebrate

Happiest time

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will find the Muhlach household filled with family from both Aga's and Charlene's side. *Noche buena* will be served in their home after attending the midnight mass. The *lolas* (Elvie and Anita) are especially gaga over the new grandchildren, but Charlene says, "It's the whole family really. The twins have just brought so much joy. This is our happiest and most blessed Christmas."

Two people who finally found each other after experiencing their individual share of heartaches and pain, Aga and Charlene are living their "happily ever after." Now that all the controversies have died, away from the din and glare of show business, only love, laughter and joy fill the Muhlach home in this blessed season. Those who admire them from a distance can only smile and applaud.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Missing Dad

By Rowena C. Burgos

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito can only pray for redemption for his besieged father and clan

IT is not easy to talk to San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor G. Ejercito. For him, everything that has happened to his father and the Ejercito clan has been painful. He keeps saying, "I miss my dad, especially this Christmas."

Since 1978, the family, together with friends and San Juan municipal officials, had been celebrating Christmas Eve with a Misa de Gallo at Agora complex. This was until Agora was transformed into a shopping center, and the Mass was held at the plaza. After the Mass, they would proceed to the residence of Guia Gomez, JV's mom, on P. Guevarra Street for *noche buena*.

But with former President Joseph Estrada accused and incarcerated for allegedly pocketing $82 million in kickbacks and bribes, much of it from illegal gambling, the tradition will be broken this year.

"My father wants us to continue the holiday activities even without him. People will surely miss him. Most of them attend the celebration because of him. This is the saddest Christmas for our family and the constituents of San Juan," says Ejercito.

After the Misa de Gallo tomorrow, the Mayor and his mother and the rest of the Ejercitos will visit his father and brother Jinggoy Estrada, at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City.

After dinner on Dec. 25, they plan to stay at the hospital and wait for the Mayor's 32nd birthday the following day. "My dad never missed any of my birthdays," says Ejercito.

As a kid, the Mayor would tell his parents the gift he'd want to receive as Christmas neared. On Christmas day, his wish would come true. The gifts he received from his father were "things that were useful and practical but not necessarily expensive." The gifts would usually be things that complemented his hobbies and interests like basketball, golf, war games and cars. "You'd think that I was spoiled but I wasn't," he insists.

Warm and loving

For all that has been said and written about the former president, not many people know him well. Ejercito, ever the admiring son, says Erap is a warm and loving man.

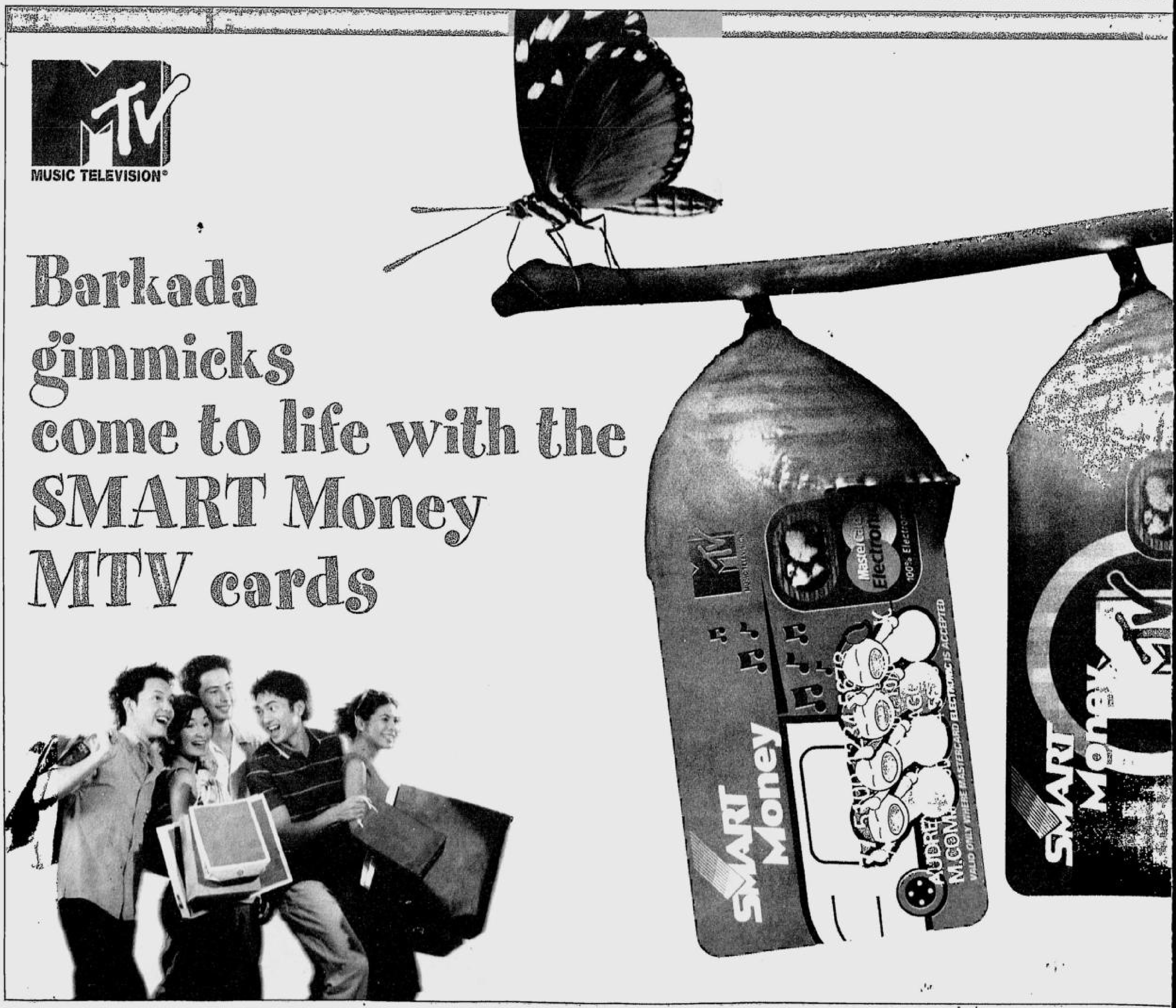
The mayor misses his dad so much that he visits him at the VMMC every other day. Even when the older Ejercito became president, father and son confided their worries and problems to each other.

The former president has been a good father and disciplinarian to his nine children, says Ejercito. "Although I'm an illegitimate child, I haven't felt any insecurities. My dad more than made up for all his shortcomings in so many ways. He made sure to attend the important events in our lives."

Ejercito feels he has been on a long personal journey with his father, which he finds comforting. But it has also been a voyage in which he has discovered the "other" side to his dad, the politician and leader, so that he feels a special responsibility to defend his dad.

The Mayor wants everyone to know that a politician, this politician, can be a source of inspiration. "In spite of the negative publicity, many still showed their concern and love for our family, especially for my father. This has been proven by the victory of Tita Loi (Estrada) in the Senate race. So I thought that running for public office is one way of paying back this love that they've shown to our family."

With the Sandiganbayan's denial of the request for Joseph and Jinggoy Estrada to spend



Barkada gimmicks come to life with the SMART Money MTV cards

MAYOR JV Ejercito: "Everything has a purpose." PHOTOS: JIM PUNZALAN

their holidays at home, the Ejercitos have little alternative but to pray that Erap can, like his movie roles, emerge a hero in the end.

"I know that God will not abandon my father because he's a good person. And I believe that everything that transpires has a purpose. Like what has happened to our family, which is probably a cleansing process for the nation."

And his Christmas wish? "The early redemption of my father and the whole family. I hope that our suffering and the further persecution of my father will stop and the suffering of our fellowmen will be alleviated. And that the present administration will make genuine moves to achieve healing and reconciliation."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

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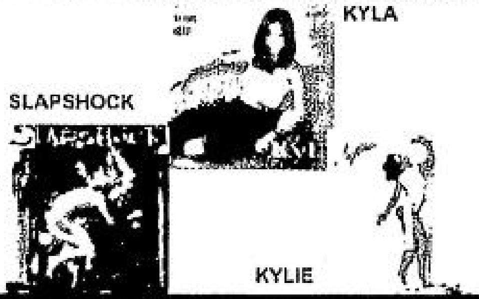

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HINT: Check out *Business Monday section* on December 24
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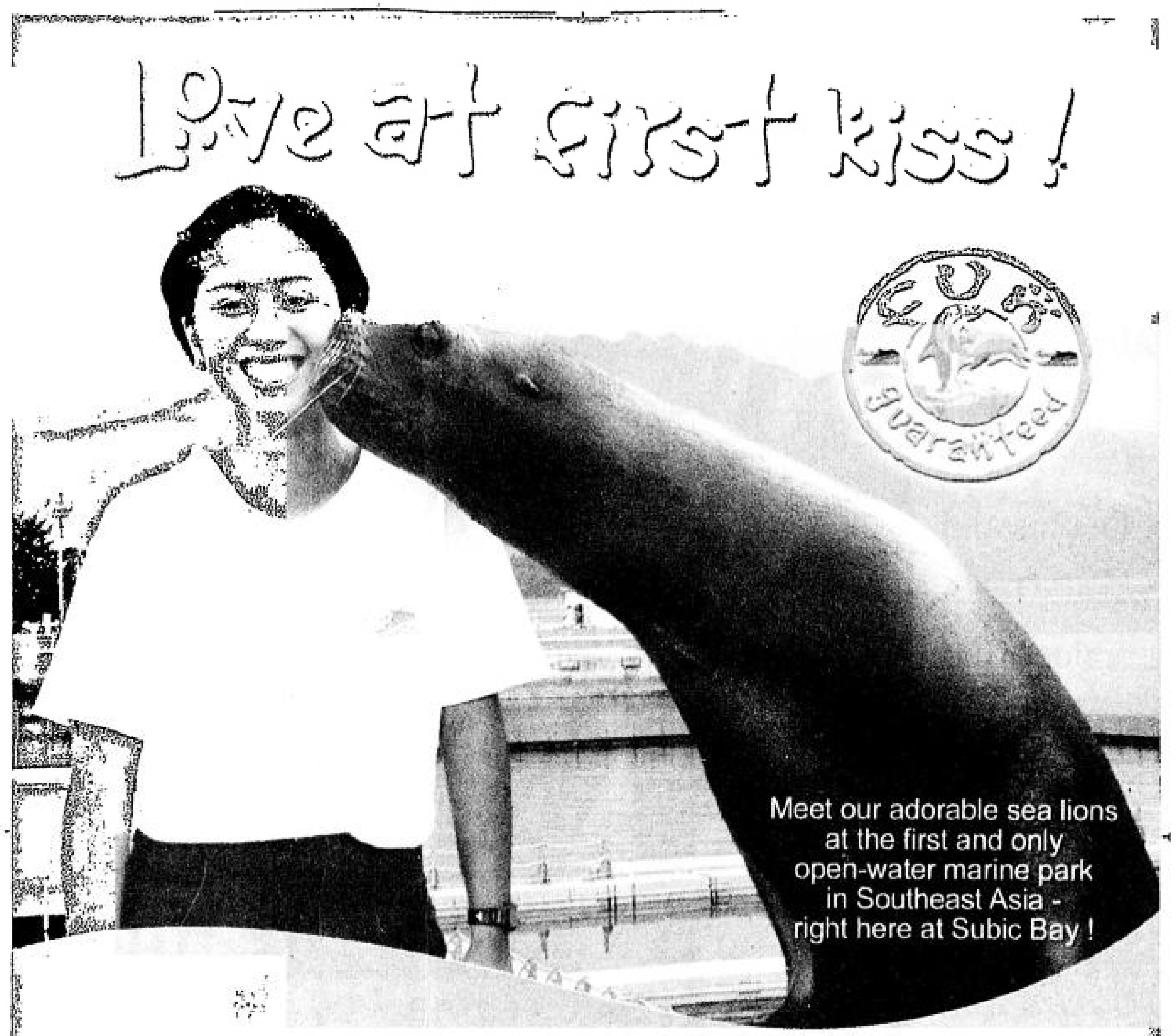

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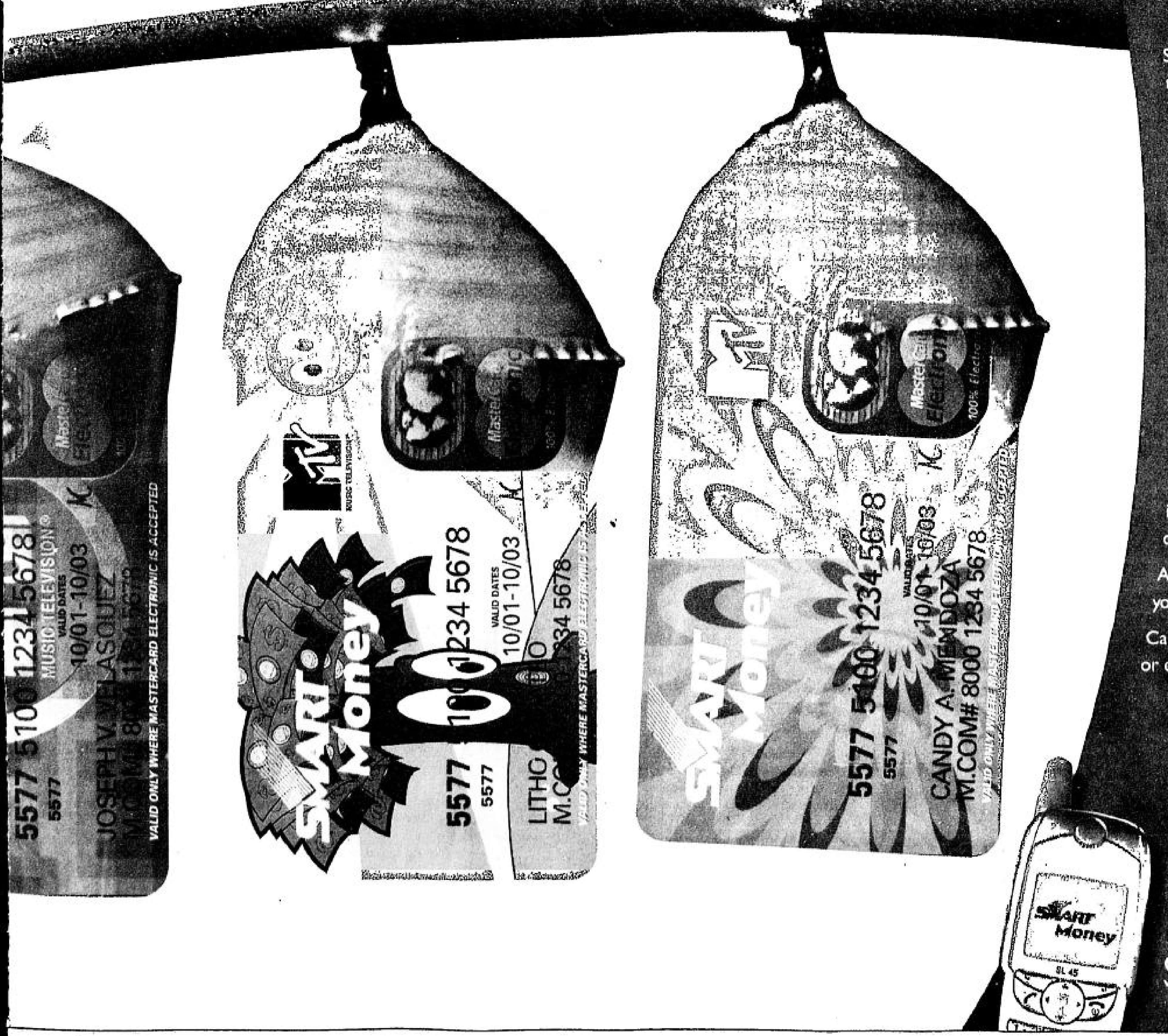
Ocean Adventure is a Division of Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium, Inc., Camayan Wharf, West Ilanin Forest Area, Subic Bay Freeport Zone



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SMART
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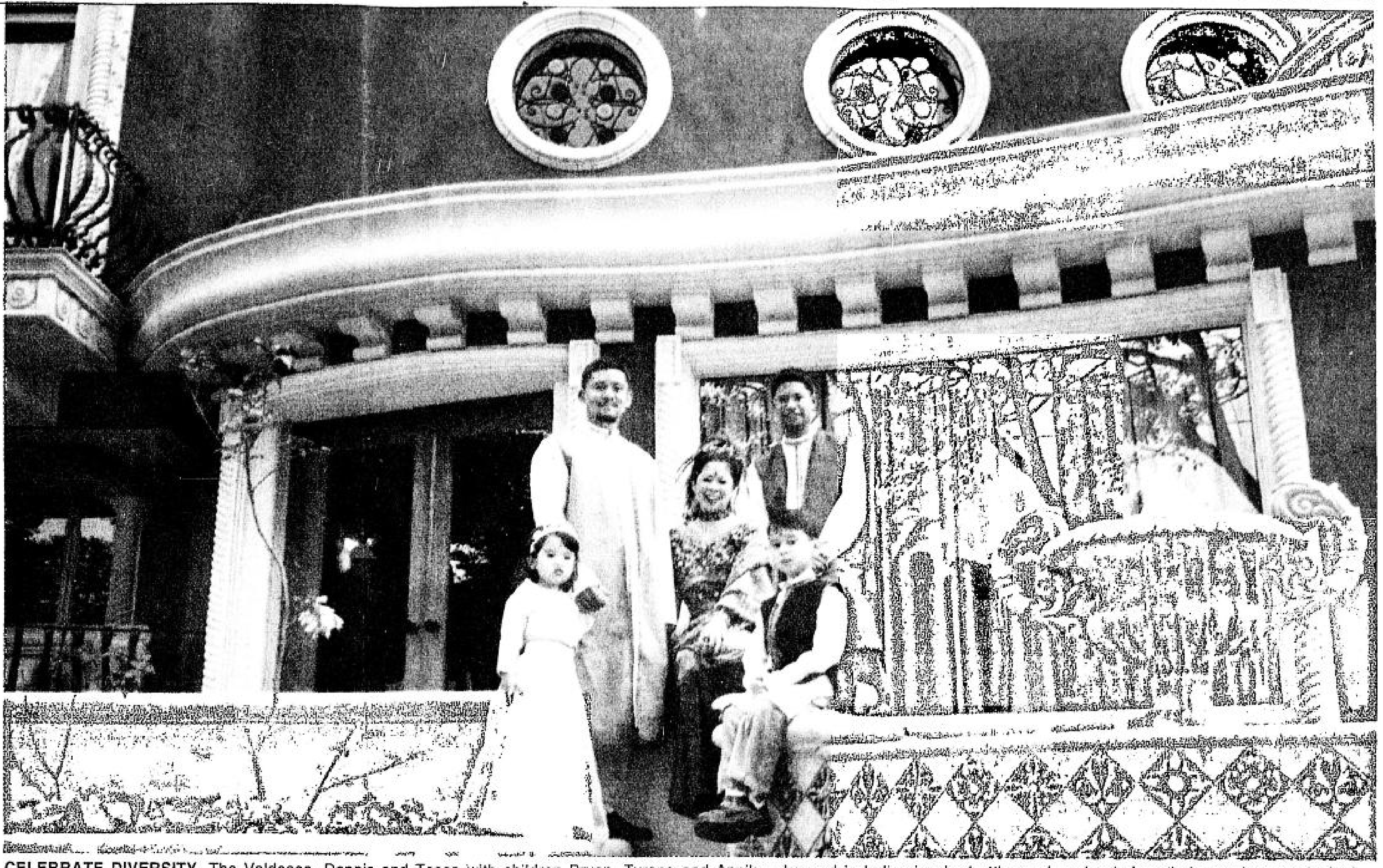
Spending Christmas for the first time in their new Forbes Park home, Dennis and Tessa Valdes find a new resolve to strengthen and enjoy their growing family


CELEBRATE DIVERSITY. The Valdeses, Dennis and Tessa with children Bryan, Tyrone and Annika, dressed in Indian-inspired attire and posing before their new home splashed with Venetian and Moorish influences.

CHRISTMAS is in their hearts.

PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

Home, new home, for the holidays

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

CHRISTMAS has always been a special time for Dennis and Tessa Valdes and their children Bryan, Tyrone and Annika. The warmth and magic of the season never fails to bring cheer to the kids, especially little Tyrone and Annika, who love to see their creative mom transform a corner or two of their home into her idea of a Yuletide fantasy land.

This year is no different from previous ones, only this time the Valdeses are spending Christmas for the first time in their own home in Forbes Park. The Venetian-inspired place, says the couple, has taken three years to construct and is still evolving depending on Tessa's whims. They moved in early this year.

"Building one's home is indeed a true test of marriage," says Dennis. "I believe the more houses a couple builds, the stronger the relationship becomes." Never mind the staggering cost of putting up one—although that, too, was a cause for concern. The occasion became a source of animated discussion, especially between a practical husband and his perfectionist wife.

Clash

Dennis, executive vice president of Far East Printing and president of Lex Media Digital, favored a no-nonsense home. But Tessa, an interior designer and one of the owners of Trezza Group Inc., had other things in mind.

During the course of building the house, for example, Tessa found the walk-in space by the master bedroom allotted for their clothes too small. She wanted to extend the space by 1½ meters, never mind if a wall had already been built. In the end, a section of the wall had to go down and a new one built to make room for the extension. The floor, ceiling and roof had to be extended as well.

"I was proven right in the end," says a beaming Tessa. "The place is already starting to get crowded with clothes."

From all indications, the Valdeses have successfully passed the test. Not only did their relationship survive the experience, it has brought them closer and every member of the family, a sense of security and fulfillment at the end of each working day.

Sense of responsibility

It has also fostered a sense of responsibility in Tyrone, 6, and Annika, 3, who, young as they are, have started cleaning their rooms. Bryan, 16, who goes to a high school in the United States, relishes his newfound freedom and independence. His room doubles as a bachelor's pad with another entrance that leads directly to the garage.

Not that they didn't experience any of this in their old house in Urdaneta Village. The two-story affair, which they rented from Tessa's brother Andrew, was home to them for more than four years.

When the couple got married in 1994, Tessa's parents, Alex and Marixi Prieto, gifted them with the Forbes Park property, which included the family's old ancestral home that was then being leased to a bank executive and his family. The lease wasn't supposed to expire until 2000, but the tenants had to vacate the house posthaste in 1998. No, they weren't evicted.

Demolition

The old house cracked from floor to ceiling after its foundation was partially eroded in a typhoon. Except for a Castrillo sculpture, nothing could be salvaged from the house where Tessa and her siblings were born. "It was so sad when we held a demolition party," she says. "The house had so many wonderful memories."

On hindsight, however, the disaster proved to be a blessing in disguise. For one, it pushed the couple to embark on the project of their lives. They became wiser and more creative in marshalling available resources. Rather than buy, say, more clothes (which Tessa, a flamboyant dresser, has a lot of, anyway), the couple now spends more on furniture and home accessories. Even their friends give them items for the home.

"Who knows," says Dennis, "embarking on this project probably saved us from making unwise investments." The cost of building a house has shot up in the last two years. It would have certainly cost the Valdeses more if they were to begin building now. Besides, it definitely feels good to have a place to call one's own, especially during the holidays.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Shop like there's no tomorrow she did

(From page D3)

some more is just way too burdensome for me," she confesses. She shops maybe once a month, and always at nearby SM, Ever Gotesco or Sta. Lucia malls.

But then she won the HSBC shopping spree and so, last Sunday, the shy lass from Naga shopped till she dropped at Rustan's Makati, one of the country's high-end stores.

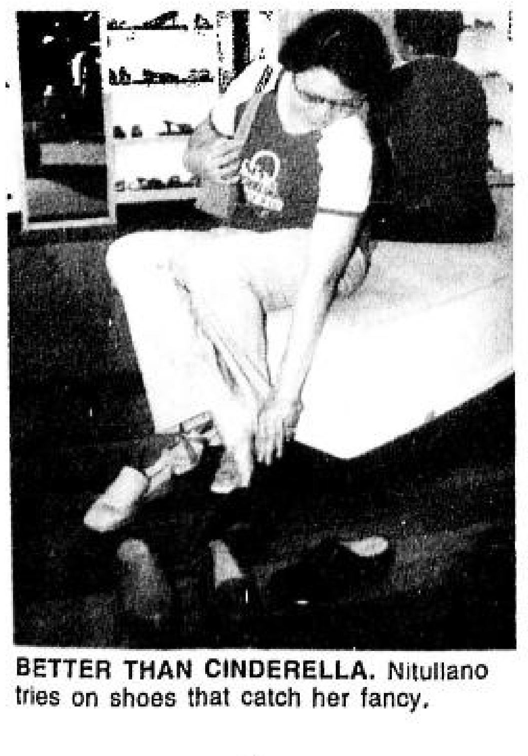
Big-hearted

For the big-hearted Jani, however, P500,000 is too much a blessing to be spent on herself alone. She became Santa Claus to her family—her widowed mother, her brother and two sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, 16 of them coming all the way from Bicol. More than half of her winnings went to relatives.

But it was still a win-win situation for Jani. "I'm happy when they're happy. My only worry is, *kasi biglaan*, I might accidentally leave someone out," she says with a schoolgirl laugh. Never the type to brag, she's worried about what the neighbors in Naga might say when a busload of appliances arrives at their home.

Her mother, Glenda, a public school teacher, recalls her second child has always been generous even as a child, although she is the quiet and reserved type whose typical day, when she was still an accounting student at the University of Nueva Caceres, involved shuttling between school and home.

Jani works as an accounting clerk for the Philippine Army Finance Center Producer's Integrated Cooperative in Fort Bonifacio.


BETTER THAN CINDERELLA. Nitullano tries on shoes that catch her fancy.

A BRAND-NEW refrigerator for Mom

Despite working in the big city for more than two years now, she has remained true to her roots—unpretentious, modest and sincere. The values she learned back in Naga have kept Jani's feet on the ground, although it is hard not to get slightly off balance if you have half a million pesos to spend.

Since the promo excluded groceries and jewelry, she spent over P300,000 on appliances, furniture and home accessories, most of which went to relatives: 10 television sets, four refrigerators, two digital video (DVD) players, two washing machines, one air conditioner and one video compact disc component, all manufactured by LG Collins. She also got two microwave ovens, two food warmers, one electric mixer, four comforter sets, three rocking chairs, three vases, and one Corelle dinner set. Nope, no French hens, turtles doves and partridge in a pear tree. But she did buy five mobile phones for her siblings and cousins.

As *pamasko*, Jani bought six Mesaki face powders and 11 bottles of cologne, two sets E-male, two Neutrogena soaps, one Bath Work set, three Estee Lauder coffret sets, two Escada coffret sets, one Ralph Lauren coffret set, one Davidoff Woman, one Origins Ginger Essence, one Gucci Envy, one Flower by Kenzo, one Victorian Classic, worth about P37,000 in all. For herself, Jani got the ultimate custom-blend Prescriptives foundation, powder and compact.

She also got her kid cousins toys—two Dragon Ball Z, two RoboPal, one PowerPuff, one Hyper Radicon, one Buggy Suncon Remote and one Magic Cotton Playhouse. For her teenage and not-so-young relatives she got wristwatches: five Guess, three DKNY and one Anne Klein (some of them for herself).

Her purchases of shoes and bags (Jani's only weakness) consisted of two Bass shoes, a pair of Pie Isa mules, two Lacoste bags, one Mondani bag, one Me Too bag, one Chinese Laundry shoes. As for dresses—three Guess pants, one Dockers jacket, four Jill blouses, one Jill dress, one Jill denim skirt, one Syrup skirt, one YVIP skirt, one Dollhouse blouse, one SP & Co. blouse, one Jam blouse.

She never dreamt her she would have half a million pesos to spend for Christmas gifts instead of the P10,000 she managed to save.

"*Magiging* loyal *na ako sa* HSBC *simula ngayon*," says the 23-year-old, giggling.

Well, HSBC has certainly made it a merry Christmas for the Nitullano family and their relatives. With all that she has now, is there anything else she wishes for this Christmas? "That we remain a peaceful family," says Jani.

LIKE A QUEEN. An army of assistants helps Nitullano cart away her goodies.

The matter of presents

(From page D2)

holiday presents, in my opinion. One of the reasons I love Christmas is the proliferation of egg tarts, *pastillas de leche*, boxes of chocolate, bottles of wine or champagne, homemade lemon curd or mincemeat and the like. Indulgence is suddenly permitted and pervasive, which makes me feel better since I do it all year long, but at least now I'm not the only one doing it. And there are so many reasons to eat: family dinners, other family's dinners (especially touching when I'm invited), friends who come home from overseas, dinners at which to take stock of one's friends and introduce new ones to old, and dinners to get share all the food received as presents. I've asked around, and discovered, to great shock: no one has yet received a single fruitcake this Christmas! Scented candles with raffia have become the new fruitcake, it would seem. Now I like scented candles as much as anyone, but you'll never have the delight of excavating the freezer in April and finding a half-eaten block of fruitcake in aluminum foil, moistening it with some cognac, and having a good whiff of the Christmas spirit in a mouthful of currants and rum.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph

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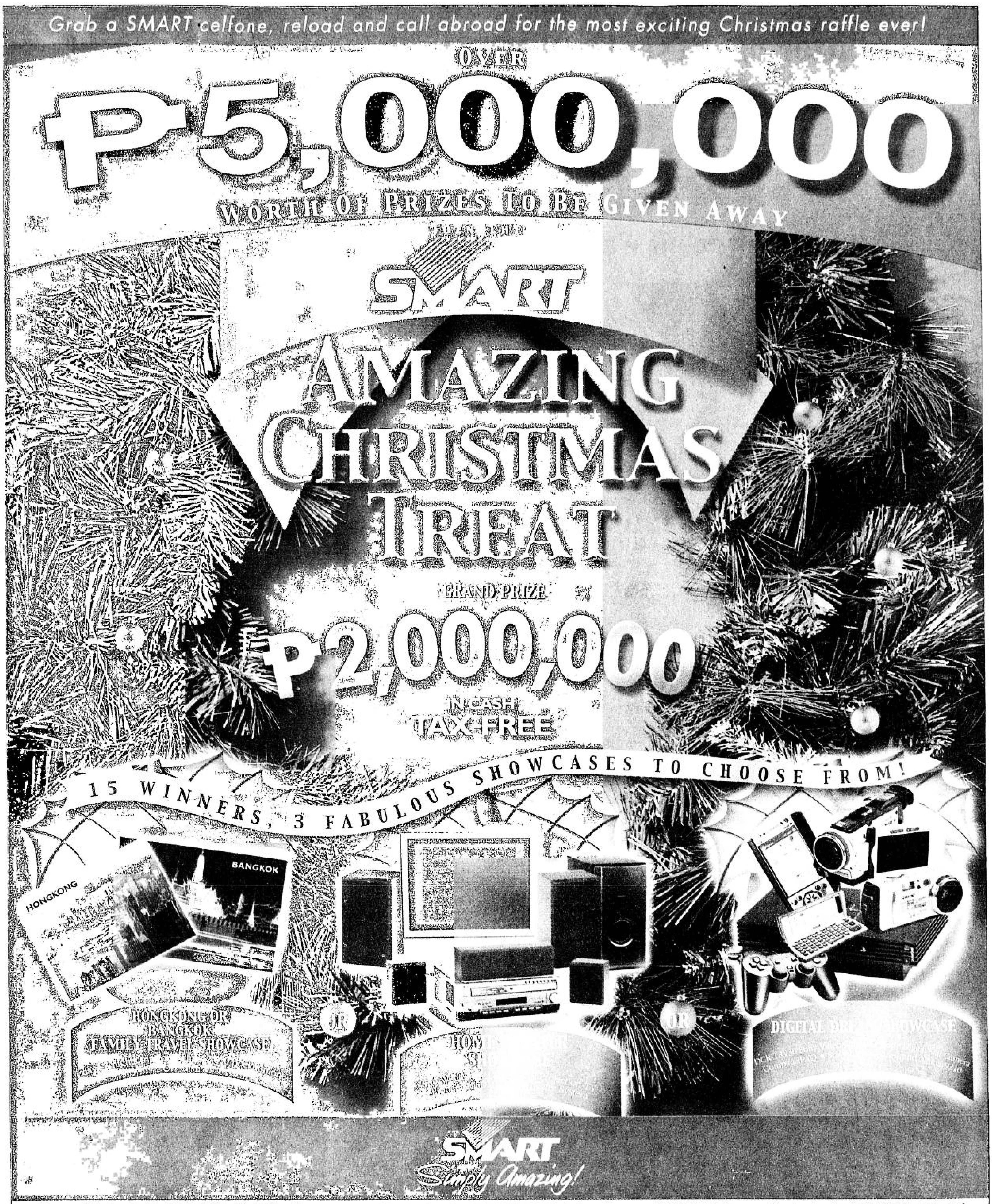
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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ ,Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

- Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries. Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

•Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.

•All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

•Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is ₱2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every ₱250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	80	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

- For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of ₱2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

•Via Activation

•Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	Nov. 1 -30, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	Dec. 1-31, 2001 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF ₱2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1:	Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.
Showcase 2:	Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still Camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)
Showcase 3:	Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given ₱175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

DE LEON-SOTTO WEDDING

A true story of love at first sight

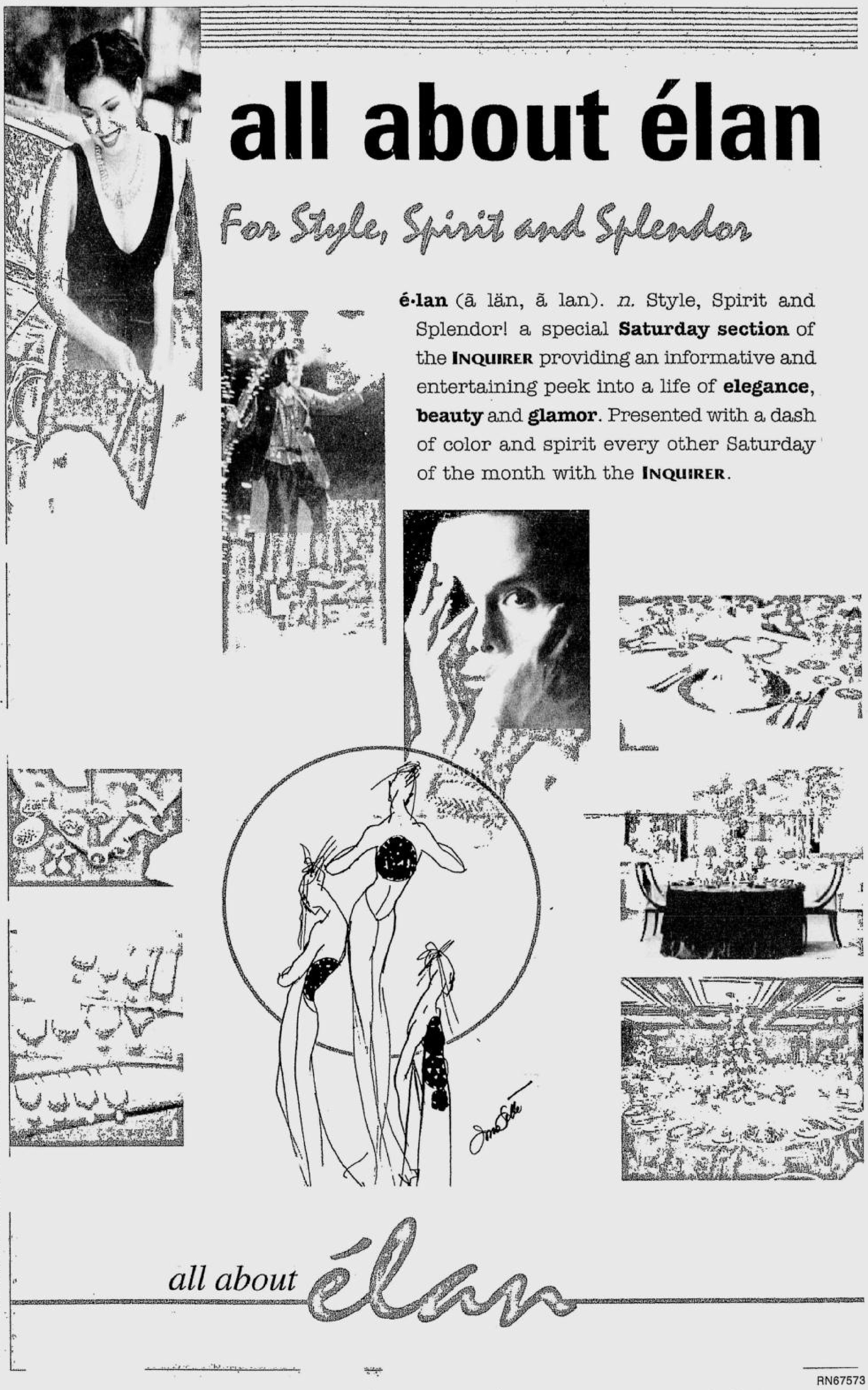
By Donnie C. Ramirez

VINCE de Leon developed a big crush on Lala Sotto when he first saw her walking down the corridor of their school, De La Salle University's College of St. Benilde, back in 1998. In August of the following year, a mutual friend introduced them, but it wasn't until July 2000 when they started to date seriously. Last Dec. 11, more than a year after they became an item, Vince and Lala finally made their matrimonial vows.

Solemnized at the Santuario de San Antonio by Bishop Sofio Balce and Auxiliary Bishop Sofronio Bancud, the wedding took the semblance of a big political affair. President Macapagal-Arroyo headed the power list of principal sponsors that included Senators Nene Pimentel, Joker Arroyo, Ed Angara, Sonny Jaworski, Tessie Oreta and Loi Ejercito Estrada; Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, the Senate President's wife, Mila Drilon, the Speaker's wife, Gina de Venecia, and the

A TRUE/ p. E2

WITH THE BRIDE'S siblings Apple, Gian Carlo and Ciara Sotto



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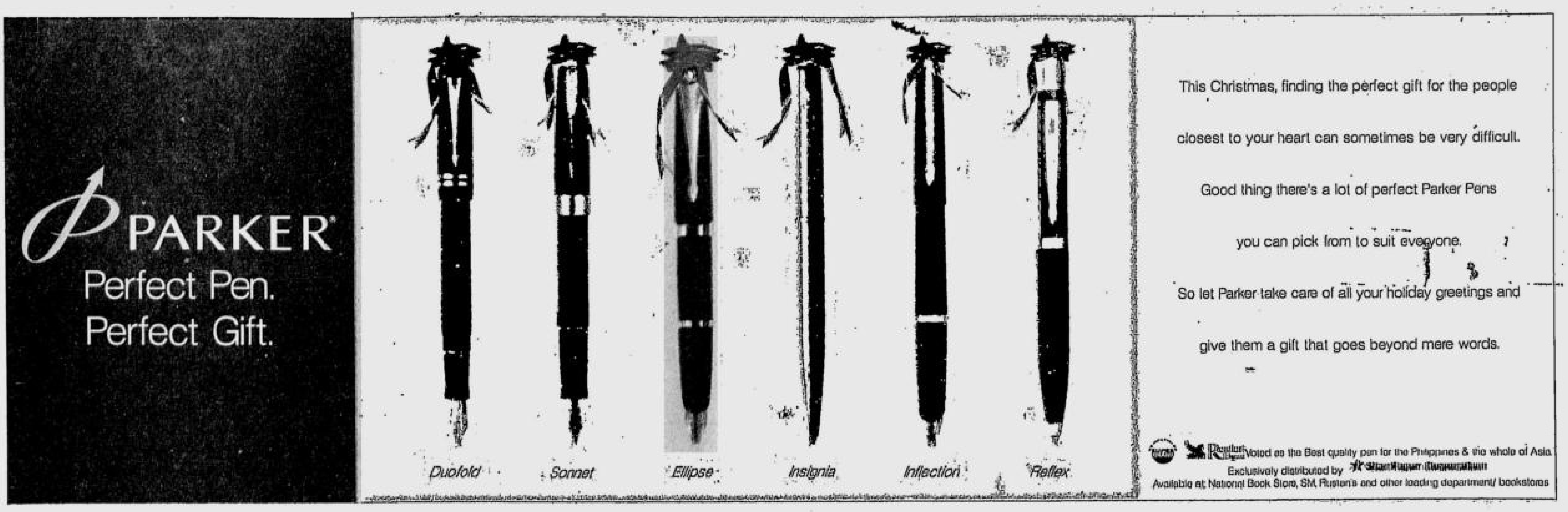

This Christmas, finding the perfect gift for the people closest to your heart can sometimes be very difficult. Good thing there's a lot of perfect Parker Pens you can pick from to suit everyone. So let Parker take care of all your holiday greetings and give them a gift that goes beyond mere words.

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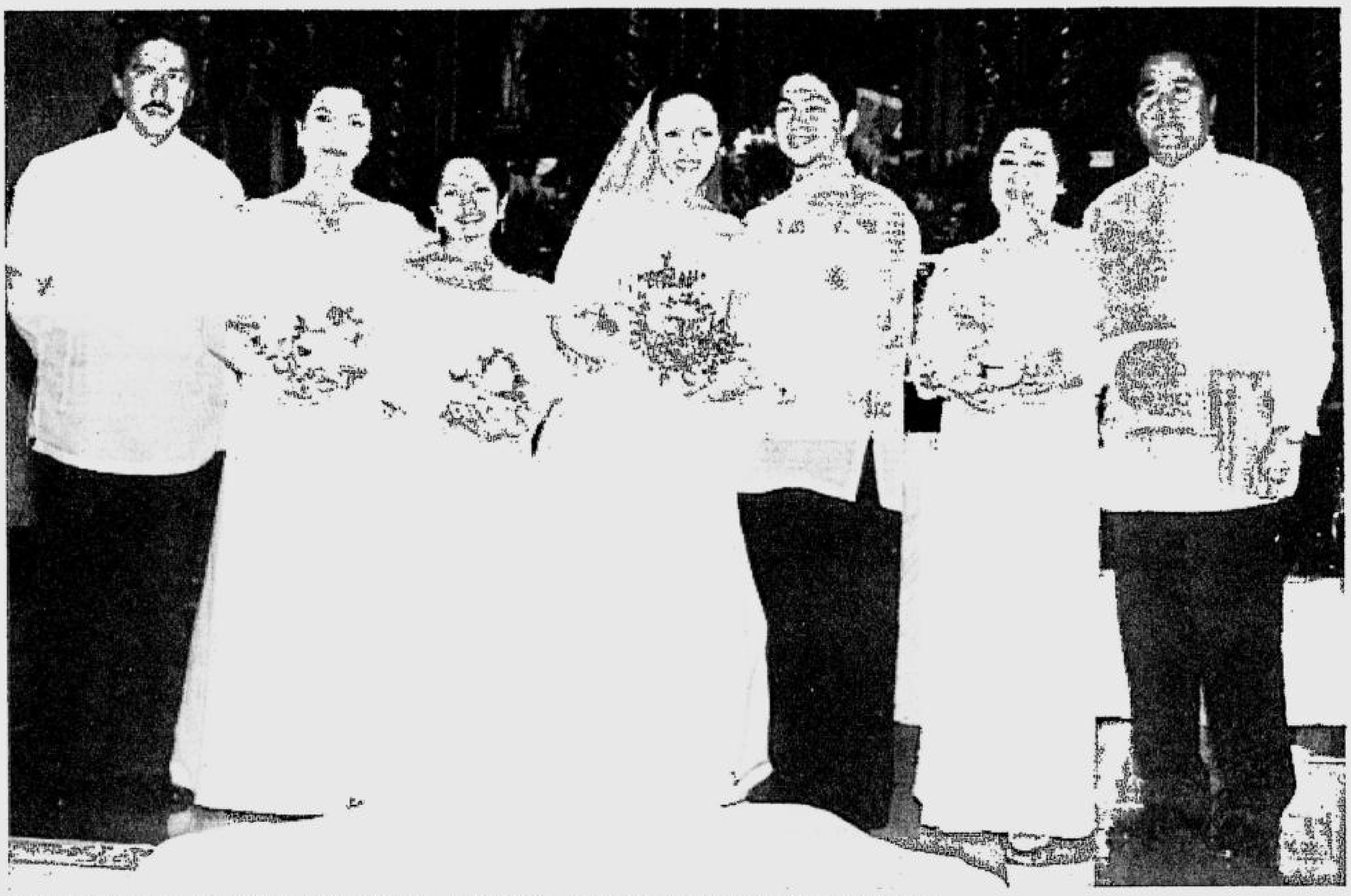


WITH THEIR parents Sen. Tito and Helen Sotto and Baby and Jun de Leon with President Macapagal-Arroyo

GRETCHEN Barreto and Tony Boy Cojuangco

BEAVER and Jackie Lopez

SUSAN Roces and Amalia Fuentes

A true story of love at first sight

SENATORS Joker Arroyo and Loi Estrada

> The groom confessed that even before he was introduced to his bride he bragged to his mom that he was dating her

(From page E1)

Executive Secretary's spouse, Lovely Romulo.

Also in the principal entourage were taipans Lucio Tan and William Gatchalian, Ricardo Murillo, Tony Boy Cojuangco, Miguel Arguelles, Jose Teodoro Mercado, Robert Cheng, Maru Sotto, Rod Valencia, Robert de Leon, Elaine Cuneta, Madeline Tuviera, Caroline Cheng, Marikita Yeung, Asteria Arguelles, Letty Uy, Carmela Belvis, Luthgarda Muñiz, Miriam Evelyn Salazar and Cynthia Albano.

The secondary entourage was just as impressive. Megastar Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan, a first cousin of Lala, was matron of honor while the bride's only brother, Gian Carlo, was best man.

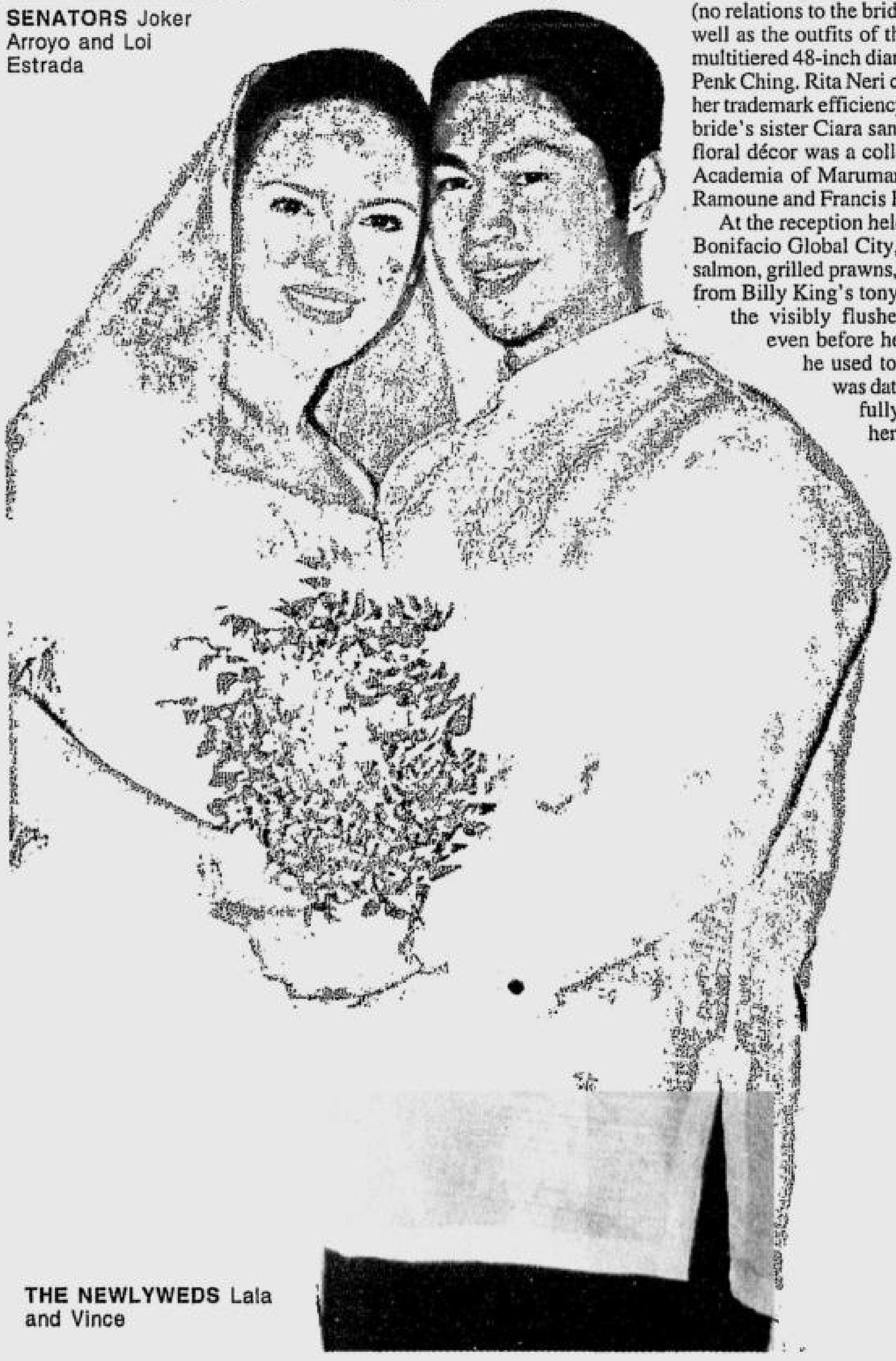
The presence of political bigwigs was understandable, considering who the newlyweds were. The bride, an incumbent councilor of the third district of Quezon City, is the daughter of Sen. Tito Sotto and the still glamorous '70s movie queen Helen Gamboa. The groom, the youngest and only boy among the four children of businessman Dioscoro Francisco de Leon Jr. and the former Maria Remedios Valenton of Nueva Ecija, works at the Office of the President in Malacañang.

Vince is a computer science graduate, while Lala took up international studies. Inno Sotto (no relations to the bride) did the bridal gown, as well as the outfits of the female entourage. The multitiered 48-inch diameter cake was created by Penk Ching. Rita Neri coordinated the event with her trademark efficiency. Nolyn Cabahug and the bride's sister Ciara sang at the church rites. The floral décor was a collaborative work of Mabel Academia of Marumaru, Ramon Pastor of San Ramoune and Francis Hen.

At the reception held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City, guests dined on smoked salmon, grilled prawns, sea bass and rack of lamb from Billy King's tony Le Soufflé. At the party, the visibly flushed groom confessed that even before he was introduced to Lala, he used to brag to his mom that he was dating her. Now, he can rightfully boast that he is bringing her home as his wife.

WILLIAM Gatchalian, Kit Tatad, Freddie Webb, Beth Tagle, Feny Tatad and Elizabeth Webb

JOEY de Leon (second from right) with Sotto brothers Val, Maru, Tito and Vic



THE NEWLYWEDS Lala and Vince

SHARON Cuneta

KC Concepcion

EVELYN Jaworski, Mila Drilon, Helen Gamboa-Sotto, Lovely Romulo and Gina de Venecia

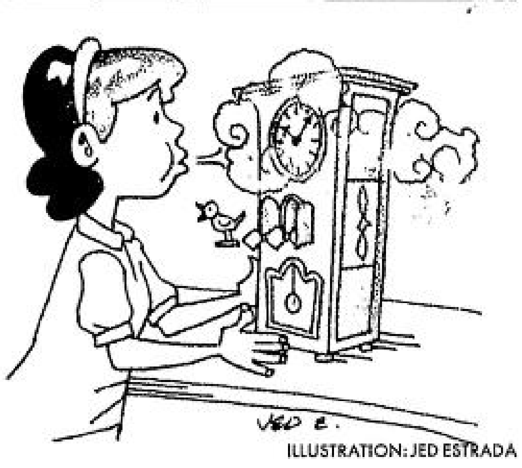


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

She's selling antiques

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Do you know where I can sell the antiques I have kept for years? They were given to me by my grandfather, and now I need some cash. Thank you.

MARICEL

Just look through the PLDT telephone directory. You will see about 40 antique shops in Metro Manila. You did not mention where you live, but you can call up those nearest you. The antique dealers will surely want to see what you have. Good luck.

In love at 16

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

I'M 16 years old and this is my story. My friend Sheila has been my classmate for three years now. We have spent happy times together, but then a problem has come up in our relationship.

Recently, I had a crush on one of our friends. I told Sheila about my feelings toward the opposite sex, for I thought I could count on her friendship.

Unknown to me, she told him what I told her. He is our classmate and he started to court me and he became my boyfriend. One day, Sheila and he quarreled. She told him she would tell me about their secret. However, before Sheila could talk to me, my boyfriend confessed that he was just making fun of me. As time passed, however, he realized he really loved me. He also said Sheila made him court me. He added he had a crush on Sheila before, but now it was gone.

I forgave him, and we are still on good terms. But Sheila and I are no longer close friends because I could not believe what she did to me.

Please help me. Who do I blame—Sheila, my boyfriend or myself? Thank you.

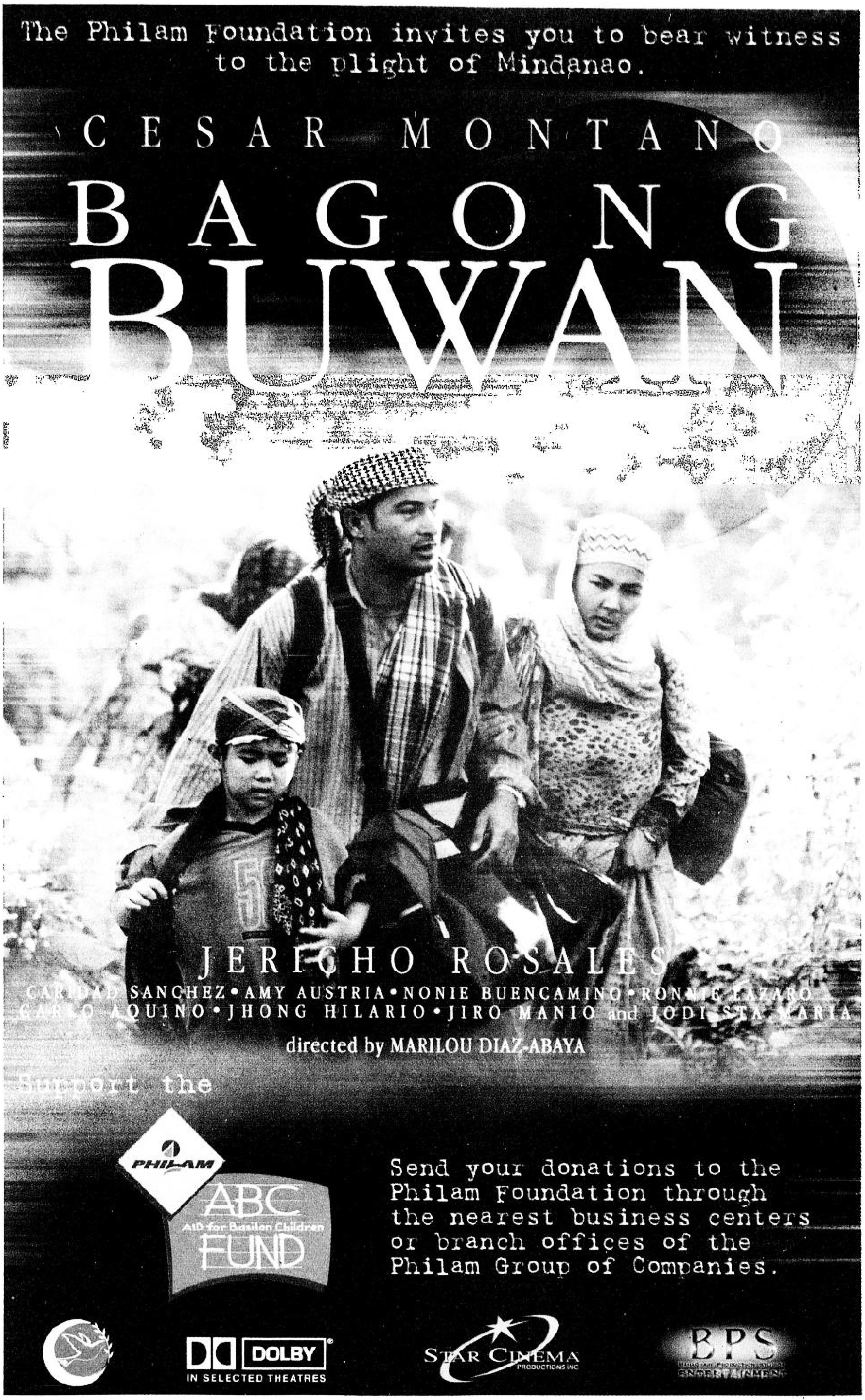
Q

You don't have to blame anyone. Keep cool. Now that it is Christmas, I hope you have the money to get Sheila a gift, or at least a Christmas card. You probably suspect that she also "likes" your boyfriend. If she does, she put him to a test, and now he has discovered that he really prefers you.

You are only 16, and there is a long future ahead. Concentrate on your studies. Don't waste time thinking about him or her. Take each day as it comes. What will be, will be. If he continues to see you, welcome him, but never be the first to get in touch in case he happens to be busy or fails to talk to you. Also, since he also told you that he had a crush on Sheila before, that feeling may come back.

So, just make sure you concentrate on having a good future, which of course includes studying and doing your homework and assignments in school. Your first duty is to your parents—show them love and respect, and don't disappoint them. One advice you probably don't expect: borrow books from your school library and read to enhance your vocabulary.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.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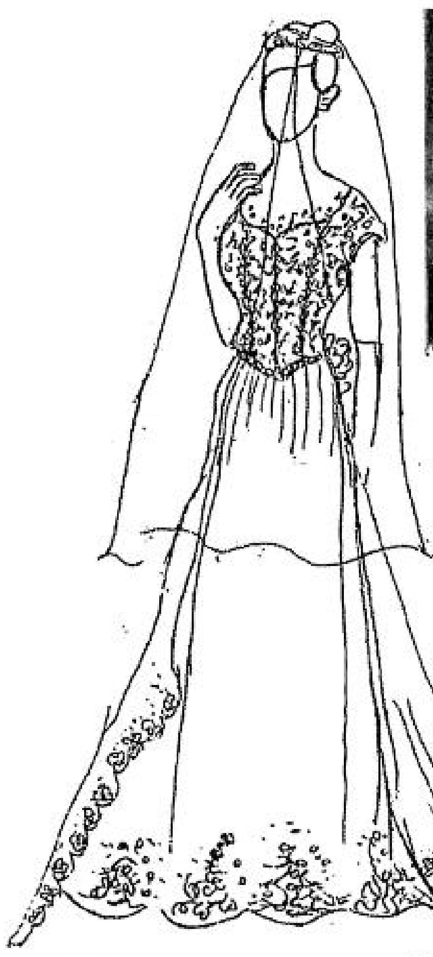
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



BUÑO-MENDOZA

Arnold A. Buño, son of **Jose Felipe** and **Erlina Alcazar-Buño**, will tie the knot with **Josie R. Mendoza**, daughter of **Jovito** and **Salome Rivera-Mendoza**, on Dec. 29 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church, Tagaytay City. The bride and her entourage will wear creations by **Rorie Ortega**. Reception will follow at the Nature Discovery Camp.

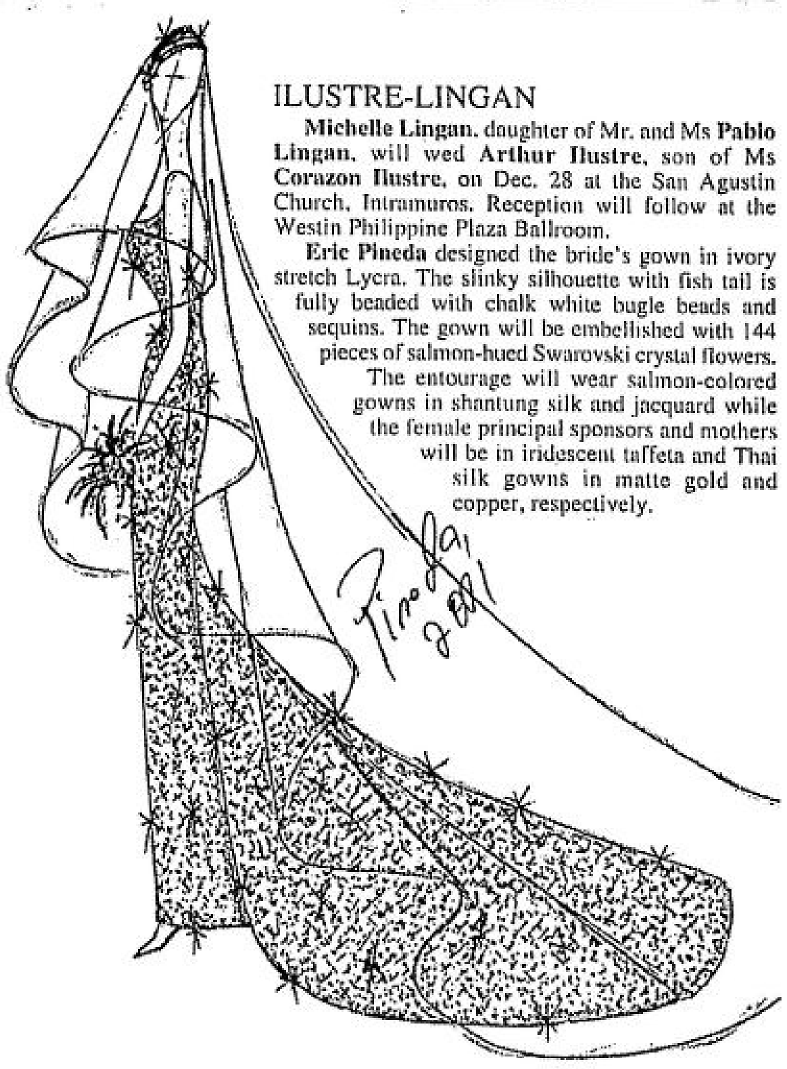
VILLANO-TIRAZONA

Glicerio Cicero A. Villano, son of lawyer **Glicerio** and **Zenaida A. Villano**, and **Frennie Lyn S. Tirazona**, daughter of Capt. **Frederic** and **Ma. Wenelita Tirazona**, will tie the knot on Dec. 30 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will follow at Fort Santiago, Intramuros.

SY-MINGUILLAN

Jeffrey Sy and **Marcia Minguillan**, both senior MBA students of the University of the Philippines Diliman, will tie the knot on Dec. 29 at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. The wedding ceremony will be officiated by Bishop **Teodoro C. Bacani Jr.** Reception will follow at The Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

The occasion will be coordinated by **Charina Senires** of Arts and Events with music provided by The Bernie Pasamba Music Consultancy string quartet.



ILUSTRE-LINGAN

Michelle Lingan, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Pablo Lingan**, will wed **Arthur Ilustre**, son of Ms **Corazon Ilustre**, on Dec. 28 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception will follow at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory stretch Lycra. The slinky silhouette with fish tail is fully beaded with chalk white bugle beads and sequins. The gown will be embellished with 144 pieces of salmon-hued Swarovski crystal flowers. The entourage will wear salmon-colored gowns in shantung silk and jacquard while the female principal sponsors and mothers will be in iridescent taffeta and Thai silk gowns in matte gold and copper, respectively.

DE CASTRO-RADOVAN

Jyasmin "Gem" F. Radovan, daughter of **Melba F. Radovan**, will exchange marriage vows with **Raymond P. de Castro**, son of **Simon Jr.** and **Prisca de Castro**, on Dec. 29 at the St. Peter the Martyr Parish, Sual, Pangasinan. Reception will be held at The Hundred Islands Resort Hotel, Lucap, Alaminos City, Pangasinan. The bride will wear a **Regie B. Blardony** creation. The entourage gowns are in powder blue.

ROA-LAUZON

Reginaldo C. Roa, son of lawyer **Ildefonso** and **Editha Roa**, will exchange marriage vows with **Karen B. Lauzon**, daughter of **Pedro** and **Zenaida Lauzon**, on Dec. 29 at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Tacloban City.

PARMA-CORALEJO

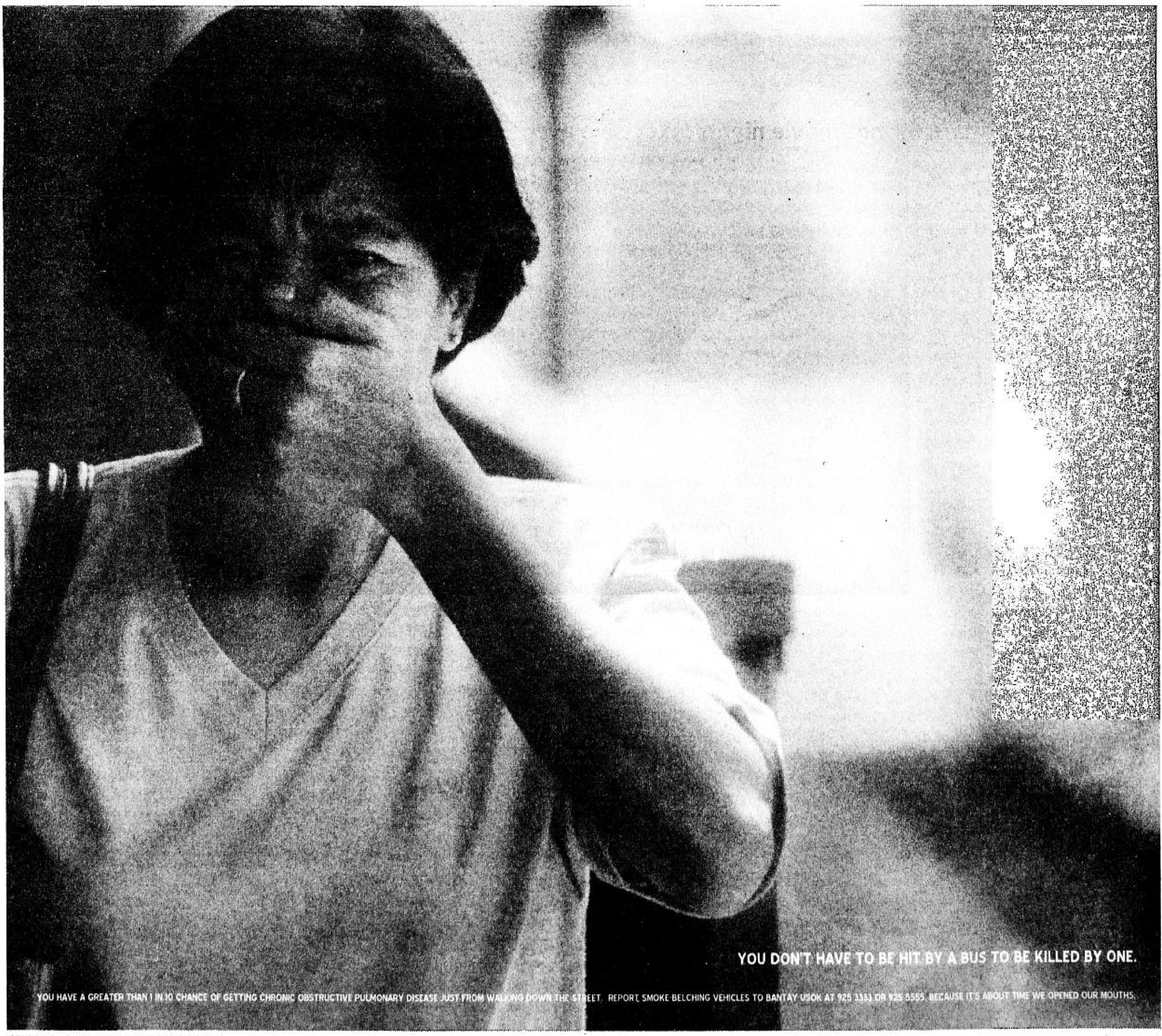
Ma. Angela A. Coralejo, daughter of Dr. and Ms **Enrique Coralejo**, will tie the knot with **Alan T. Parma**, son of Mr. and Ms **Leo Daniel Parma**, on Dec. 29 at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan. Reception will follow at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

BERBERABE-PEREZ

Arturo A. Berberabe Jr., son of **Arturo** and **Lorna Berberabe**, exchanged "I dos" with Dr. **Lileth L. Perez**, daughter of **Florencio** and **Lourdes Perez**, on Dec. 15 at the Saint Joseph Parish Church in San Jose, Batangas. Reception followed at Batangas Plaza-Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City.

CANO-PORTEM

Custer M. Cano, son of **Amando Jr.** and **Elsie Cano**, tied the knot with **Mardy M. Portem**, daughter of **Rofolfo** and **Marlene Portem**, on Dec. 8 at the Our Lady of the Gate Parish Church, Daraga, Albay. The bride wore a **Ding Marquez** creation.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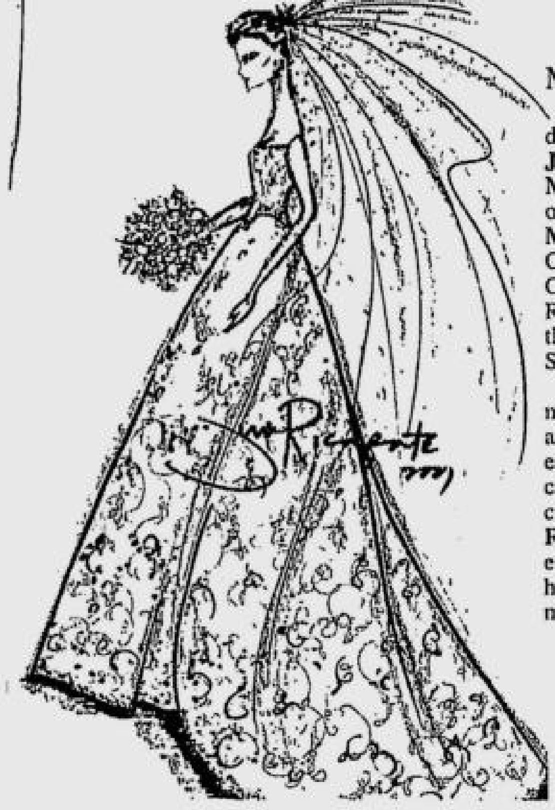

Jun Ricaforte

MORENO-LIBAN

Cherla B. Liban, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Jose Claro Liban**, wed **Marvin S. Moreno**, son of Mr. and Ms **Manuel Moreno**, at the United Central Methodist Church, Manila. Reception followed at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel.

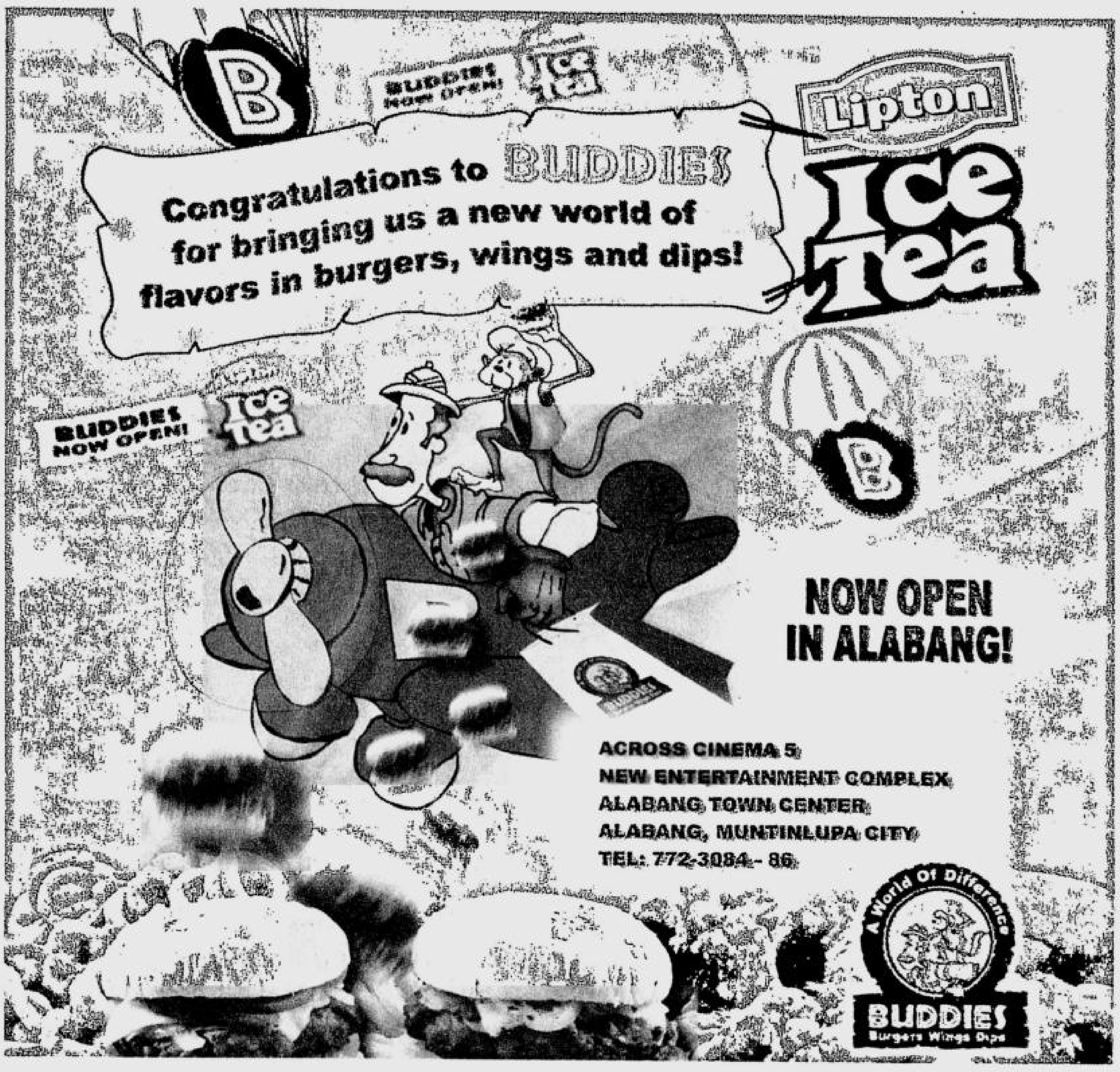
Cherla wore a silver metallic bustier bodice and bouffant gown embellished with silver cut glass, seed pearls and crystals executed by **Jun Ricaforte** of I Do. The entourage wore gowns in heather blue and silver motif.

AMPARO-DIZON

Lugene Amparo of Las Piñas and **Malou Dizon** of Pampanga were married recently at the Our Lady of Fatima Church in Cavite.

SUNTAY DEBUT

Maria Lourdes Joson Suntay, daughter of the late lawyer **Rafael G. Suntay** and the former **Rosario Joson**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The debutant, a sophomore at De La Salle University taking up Bachelor of Science in Psychology, wore a periwinkle blue 18th century-inspired gown made of silk and silk organza with cut beads and rhinestones. The gown was designed by **Vivo Nazareth**.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Flordeliza Bobier - Las Piñas City
Donnabelle Paat - Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Alice Lejarde - Guagua, Pampanga
Jerry Rose Ocampo - Cabuyao, Laguna
Minda de los Santos - Balatas, Naga City
Carolina Manzanares - Tacloban City
Mary Grace Vael - Bacolod City
Jonalyn Loking - Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Romeo Montenegro - Davao City

WINNERS OF ₱50,000

Helen Buguina - Binondo, Manila
Josephine Ganzon - Quezon Hill, Baguio City
Esperanza Gonzales - San Vicente, Tarlac City
Jeziel Cariño - Biñan, Laguna
Janette Pedernal - Cotta, Lucena City
Meriam Ayacaide - Basak Pardo, Cebu City
Lea Valencia - Lezo, Aklan
Julieta Olivar - Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro
Carolyn Cona - Gen. Santos City

WINNERS OF ₱20,000

Edith Rosales - Rosario, Pasig City
Viola Maddalora - Cabagan, Isabela
Jean Apilada - Concepcion, Tarlac City
Gloria Contreras - Puerto Princesa City
Plarinie Bongon - Del Rosario, Naga City
Elvisa Garcia - Tacloban City
Cristina Caspillo - Leon, Iloilo
Shiela Tumamak - Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental
Victoria Ramos Babac - Gen. Santos City

WINNERS OF ₱5,000

METRO MANILA

Jinky de Leon - San Jose, Navotas
Johnson Tan - Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela
Julieta Patong - Payatas, Q.C.
Honor de Loza - Novaliches, Q.C.
Lorena Tobio - Taguig
Nemia Bulala - Catmon, Malabon City
Primitivo Mejia, Jr. - NAIA, Pasay City
Roger Ricohermoso - B. Silang, Kalookan City
Elenita Santos - Taytay, Rizal
Ruby Mahilaga - Novaliches, Q.C.

NORTH LUZON

Marita Ungson - Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Pinky Bantigue - Lingayen, Pangasinan
Ma. Theresa Viray - Dagupan City
Natalia Aspillaga - Agoo, La Union
Edwin de Guzman - San Jacinto, Pangasinan
Gemma Artates - Bacarra, Ilocos Norte
Albina Ernesto - Bauang, La Union
Joerlita Ruiz - Bacarra, Ilocos Norte
Auriana Talosig - Irisan, Baguio City
Evelyn Ortega - Batal, Santiago City

CENTRAL LUZON

Cesar Bonus - Pilar, Bataan
Dominador Javier - Sta. Rita, Olongapo City
Loreta Ponce - Talavera, Nueva Ecija
Amelia Bitoon - E.B.B., Olongapo City
Roberto Yco - San Fernando, Pampanga
Lilibet Gaspar - Pilar, Bataan
Lilibeth Cruz - San Rafael, Bulacan
Marivic Serrano - Sta. Teresita, Angeles City
Lani Agojona - Lubao, Pampanga
Herminia Villanueva - Cabanatuan City

SOUTH LUZON 1

Evelyn Reyes - Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Julieta Narvaez - Bacoor, Cavite
Pilita Barias - Imus, Cavite
Reva Reyes-Brutas - Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Joana Gimotea - Puerto Princesa, Palawan
Ana Lisa Bautista - Imus, Cavite
Cynthia Solis - San Pedro, Laguna
Ma. Carolyn Cayamanda - Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Imelda Sayao - Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Divina Dulce - Cabuyao, Laguna

SOUTH LUZON 2

Salvacion Basbas - Magarao, Camarines Sur
Eusebia Dava - Baao, Camarines Sur
Ma, Concepcion Javier - Canaman, Camarines Sur
Dolores Rull - Pili, Camarines Sur
Beatriz Alipante - Camaligan, Camarines Sur
Silverio Laurel - Mauban, Quezon
Genevieve Porte - Pagbilao, Quezon
Myra Afundar - Gubat, Sorsogon
Shery Sarmiento - Pilar, Sorsogon
Merle Ocfemia-Oco - Guinobatan, Albay

EAST VISAYAS

Angelita Aves - Cebu City
Jose Valera - Casungtingan, Mandaue City
Jessica Loquinario - Dauis, Bohol
Irene Pejana - Abucay, Tacloban City
Marcelina Ermeo - Calbayog City
Marilou Olieta - Lilo-an, Cebu
Jerlyn Ruedas - Palo, Leyte
Alma Zartiga - Tacloban City
Erlinda Combras - Tacloban City
Imelda Buzon - Cebu City

WEST VISAYAS

Catherine Furatero - Lapuz, Iloilo City
Lezil Espinosa - Inolo, Iloilo City
Digna Magbanua - Jaro, Iloilo City
Ruth Joy Cataluna - Buenavista, Guimaras
Myrna Dequito - Roxas City
Almarie Celiz - Bacolod City
Melanie Magbanua - San Miguel, Iloilo
Cecilia Billones - Yusay Sara, Iloilo City
Karen Ezpeleta - Roxas City
Jessel Diamante - Talisay, Negros Occidental

NORTH MINDANAO

Charlie Ferrer - Gingoog City
Cherry Belle Sanico - Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro
Rutchie Cabahug Aguhob - Cagayan de Oro
Nena Ecle - Surigao City
Victor Araneta - Cagayan de Oro
Faradiua Garcia Obsiana - Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Josephine Rose Agad - Macanhan, Cagayan de Oro
Doris Rodrigora - Cagayan de Oro
Mary Jane Nuevas - Iligan City
Raquel Tagacay - Alegria, Surigao del Norte

SOUTH MINDANAO

Rowena Fernandez - Doña Caridad, Davao City
Jona Florida - Cabacan, Davao City
Marilyn Beltran - Matina, Davao City
Analiza Garbe - New Matina, Davao City
Sufrimeda Bucabal - Bansalan, Davao City
Ma. Evaline de Leon - Saranggani Province
Yolanda Mendoza - Gen. Santos City
Roseminda Carmilotes - Ma-a, Davao City
Lily Loy - Davao City
Carolina Cornelio - Bajada, Davao City

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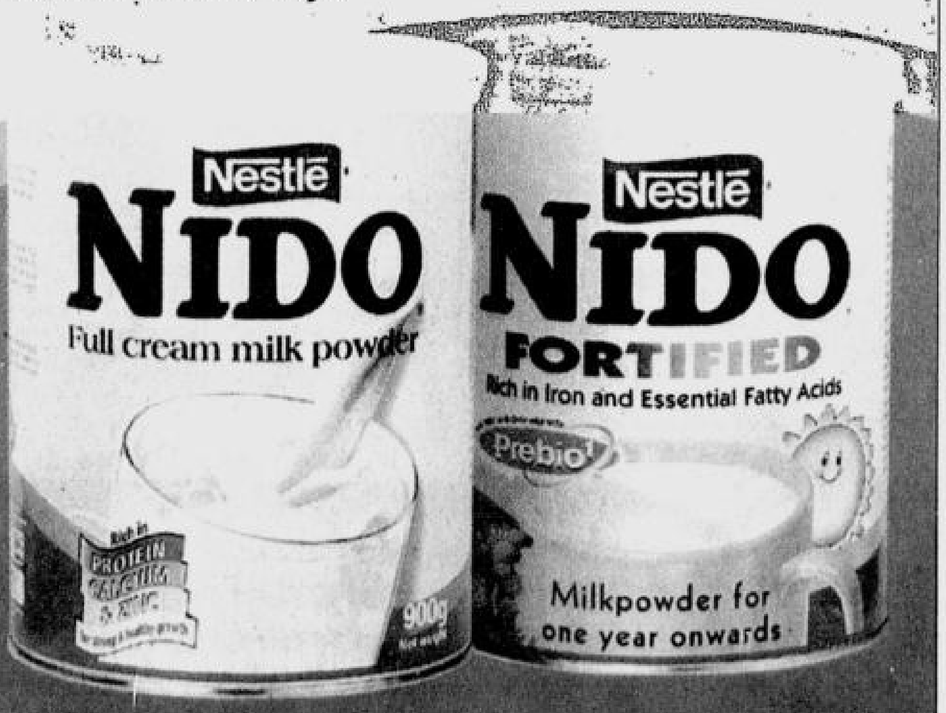
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0791 series of 2001

The instruments of God's love this Christmas

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

It may have taken five years to put up the money to build Ephesus Home in Guiguinto, Bulacan, but it was worth the wait for the 12 children from the Bantay Bahay Foundation who now live there, go to school and spend Christmas happily.

The Loving Hands of Joseph and Mary Foundation was put up under Fr. Boyet Concepcion's spiritual guidance.

While Ephesus Home was blessed last Oct. 14, the Chapel of the Divine Mercy in the compound was consecrated by Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona last Dec. 5. Father Boyet and Fr. Manny Santiago concelebrated the Mass with the Galilee Choir singing.

Lawyer Mario Oreta built the chapel with the interiors, including the saints donated by Jeffrey Campos, through the help of former DOT Undersecretary Ram Antonio. The biggest help came from Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz who leased the land for 25 years at P1 a year.

The Loving Hands officers are lawyer Oreta, chair; Jocelyn Poon, president; Brenda Reyes, VP; Margaret Kwok, secretary; and Vivian Uy, treasurer. The board of trustees is composed of Emily Ang, Ofelia Benavides, Alice Cabahug, Dr. Belen Carisma, Gloria Garcia, Rabot Aspiras-Oreta, Wilhelmina Palumbarit, Aida Reyes, Linda Tiu and executive director Mario Somera.

The group raised money through various means: ballroom dancing at Savannah Moon; Athens-based Nanette Samper's painting exhibit; and donations from prominent personalities and the Angelo Kiong Foundation. Donations were bedsheets, pillow cases, a washing machine, aircon and beds.

God's love is manifested in Ephesus

In his homily, Bishop Tirona said that Ephesus Home is a manifestation of God's love using the people behind it as His instruments. This same love is manifested in Damascus, a rehabilitation center for drug dependents run by Robert Tiangco; the street children home "Bethlehem" and other Guiguinto homes.

To show support, Guiguinto Mayor Boy Cruz. wife Precy and his vice mayor came to the chapel's blessing. Bro. Francis Tañega of Pangarap Shelter in Pasay also came with Kevin Connelly, a British Airways steward, who has made it possible for street children to ride airplanes flying over Metro Manila. The Philippine Airlines flight crew donated the food catered by Albert Santos for the reception.

God's love was felt that beautiful day as we sang and praised Him during the Mass.

Television needed for seminary

FR. Manny Santiago, formator of the Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary in Barrio Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan, told me that the TV and VHS units in the seminary are already run down. The TV is used for study modules. Those who wish to donate a TV set and one VHS unit can call Father Manny at (044) 690-1298.

Vocations open

THE SONS of Mary, which runs the Pangarap Shelter on Escobal Street corner Taft Avenue in Pasay City, needs more young men for the religious life. Those interested can call Brother Tañega at 834-1061 or write him at Pangarap Shelter, Escobal Street corner Taft Avenue, Pasay City.

Feeding the children

THE CATHOLIC Women's League in Paco Parish continually prepares children for First Communion. At least 1,000 children were fed after the First Communion from Epifanio de los Santos School in Malate last Nov. 17 and Lucban Elementary School last Nov. 24.

Helping CWL president Sol Alturas Yu are Betty Villa, Chel Alimany, Celeste Raymundo, Melly Rosa, Letty Cruz, Baby Uy, Aida Tirol, Mila Llorin, Viring Grecia, Chign Sangalang and Norma Lipata. They also distributed rosaries to the Tahanan ng Mahal na Ina residents in Tagaytay.

Soroptimist fashion show for a cause

THE SOROPTIMIST International Founder Manila recently held a fashion show for a cause on their coral anniversary at the Manila Polo Club.

Proceeds will go to the SI Founder Manila's projects like day care and its programs on health, livelihood and environment for its adopted Barangay 891 in Sta. Ana.

Club president is Cora Cadelina. Baby Pizarro, Minda Garcia and Cora Manimbo were in charge of the event. The women wore their own designers' creations. Cristina Pecson emceed while Gloria Gatmaitan and her band played.

Leading the Soroptimist models in the fashion show was Cadelina. Participants included district director for SI Northwest Metro Manila Margie Vitug, district treasurer Cora Gernalel and SI Manila Tourist Belt president Lita Escueta, SI Valenzuela president Adel Gunigundo, SI Malabon president Flery Marcelo and Odette Tiu, SI Silang past president Dahlia Toledo, SI Navotas president Viring Teano, past district director Dulce Gozum, SI Antipolo president Ditas Posadas and past president SI Meycauayan Linabelle Villarica, SI founder Manila officers and members Baby Pizarro, Yolly Aguilar, Minda Garcia, Ampy Araullo, Arabelle Poblete, Mary Jazul, Sol Alturas Yu, Nida Raguid, Melanie Lacuna, Cristie Lee and Espie Ignacio.

Singing to the old nuns

TENOR Rheez Chua, soprano Honey Girl and the Prelude Strings Ensemble sang for the old nuns at the Dominican School nursing home in San Juan. Rheez said that the nuns were delighted with the company and music.

Our Lady of Manaoag ship

IN 1998, Elsa Go of WG & Aboitiz Shipping approached Edna Toral about making an image of Our Lady of Manaoag for one of the company ships. Elsa later visited the Manaoag shrine in Pangasinan and bought a small image. Though she brought it aboard, the boat seemed to be always out of order.

So she asked Ms Toral again for advice. Finally, a 3-ft image of the Virgin was bought from Al Arriesgado and enthroned on the boat on Oct. 20, 2001. A Holy Mass was said with the crew and personnel attending. The last I heard, the boat is okay.

Our Lady of Manaoag in Tapilon, Cebu

A NEW enthronement of Our Lady of Manaoag took place last Dec. 16 at the St. Michael Parish in Tapilon, Daan-bantayan along Malapascua Island in Cebu. Fr. Rossdel Noel is the parish priest.

A happy Christmas, after all

LAST week, the malls filled up with people shopping. There was joy in the air. More get-togethers and parties were happening. Typically Pinoy, we do things at the last minute.

I bought a "Harry Potter" coloring book for the grade six kid I am helping in Nuestra Señora de Guia Parochial School in Magallanes, Cavite. I was getting caught up in the excitement.

But the school needs more help. Fr. Gilbert Reyes couldn't give the teachers bonuses because the students, who are poor, could not pay the full tuition fee.

If you wish to help, please call Emy Hernandez at 523-8811. She will tell you how to send the help to Father Reyes. Or you can write him c/o Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, Magallanes, Cavite. Anything will help. Since the parish church is also poor, some parishioners went caroling to buy some Christmas lights for the church.

What or who are you waiting for?

TOMORROW will be Christmas Eve. Who or what are you waiting for? This is the gist of Fr. Luis Ibasco's message during an afternoon recollection at Ermita Church.

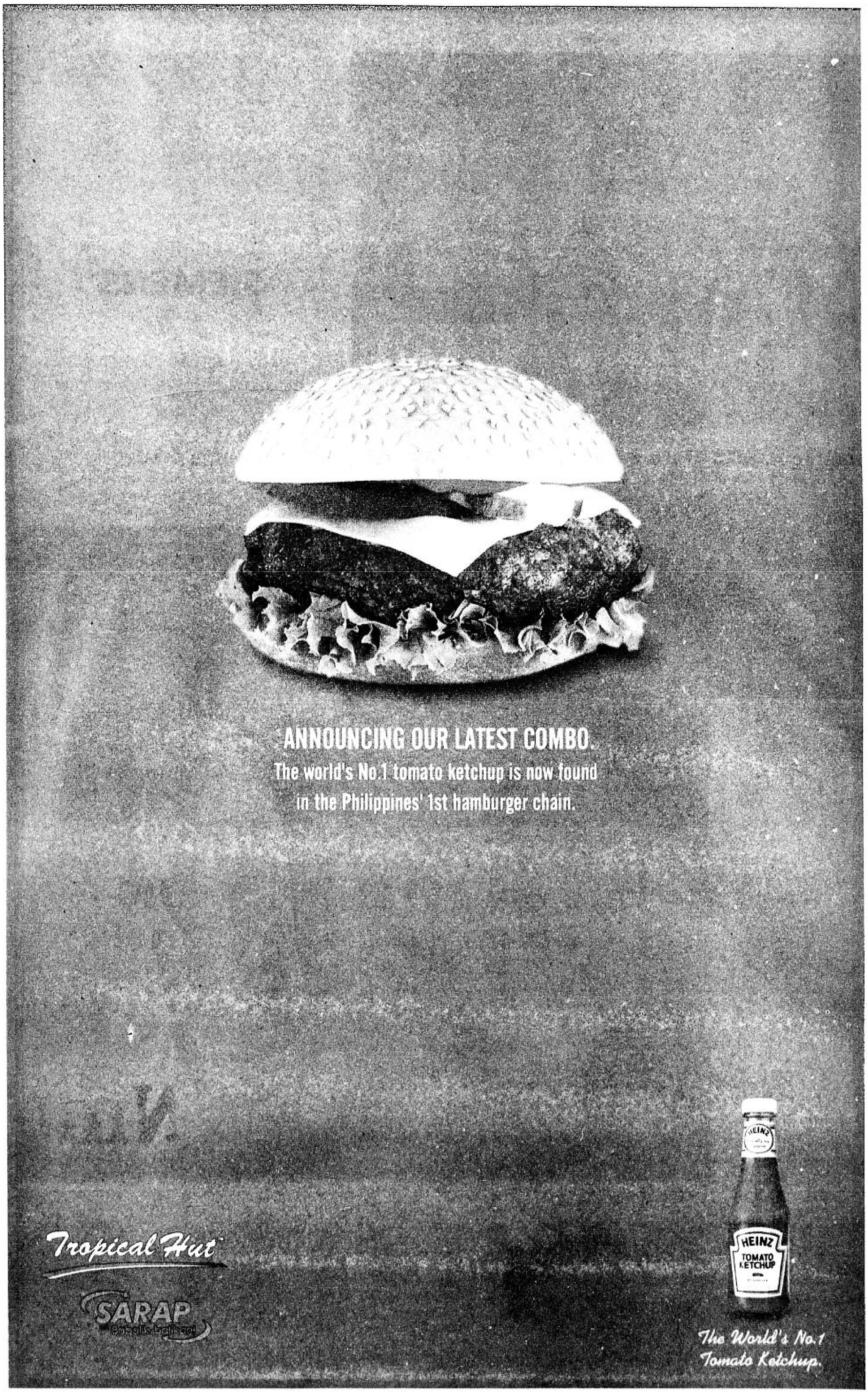
John the Baptist calls us to repent for our sins and make a straight path to the Lord, as we face honestly our need for a change of heart and perspective.

Monastic experience for free

THE MONASTERY of Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon is giving a free teach-in on how to be monks. Those interested can call (088) 221-2373 or e-mail laorden@mozcom.com.

Merry Christmas to all!

LOVING Hands of Joseph and Mary members and guests at the blessing of the Ephesus chapel in Guiguinto, Bulacan. In photo are Dr. Belen Carisma, Jocelyn Poon, Mario Somera, Precy Cruz, Lourdes Choa, Minda Palumbarit, lawyer Mario and Babo Oreta, Ram Antonio, Guiguinto Mayor Ambrosio Cruz and spiritual director Fr. Boyet Concepcion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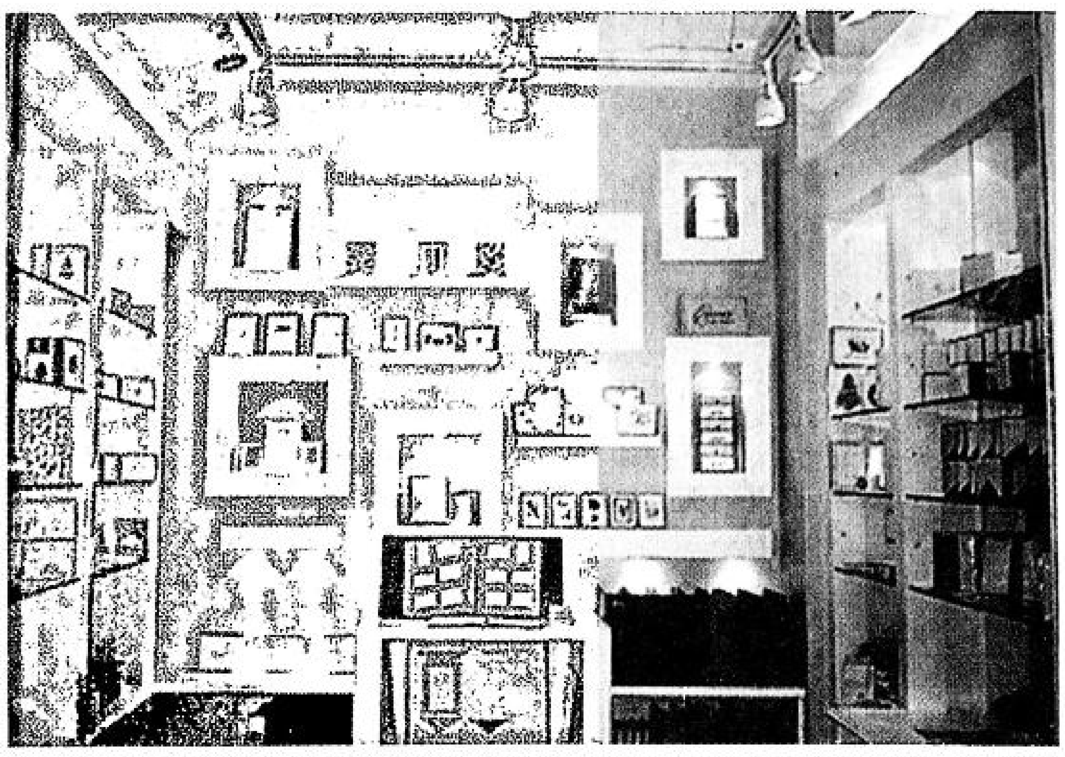
HEINZ
TOMATO KETCHUP
The World's No.1 Tomato Ketchup.



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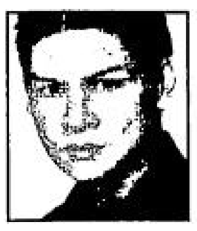
Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise and stylish stationery

T'NT TRENDS AND TRENDINGS



Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE magazine—Vanity Fair December 2001 and January 2002 issues. Have you ever seen a more delectable cover than Vanity Fair's December issue with **Brad Pitt** on the cover? Well, much to my surprise, the January 2002 issue adds to the heat as **Tom Cruise** goes shirtless.

Hmmm, is it flagging sales or stellar status that prompted the mag to put these men and their bodies upfront? If you ask me, it does not really matter since both make for delightful reading for the holidays. After their stories, you must read the one on **Osama bin Laden** (December issue) and the murder of a 52-year-old millionaire, **Ted Ammon** (January issue). Happy reading!

Must-go-to store—Paperie. Rockwell mall, especially the lifestyle section, is truly a great place to shop. Although it's a little off course, it's not grand central station either. Recently opened is the premiere stationery store. Paperie carries imported personalized stationery, wedding and other invitations. Brands available are Cranes, Rossi from Florence, Italy, Stars and Eggplant NYC, Encore Studio and Gibsons. The store also has the best-looking leather photo albums, desk sets and guest books I have seen. Paperie is located at 2/F PowerPlant Mall, Rockwell.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo vda de Pendelton. It's Christmas Q&A time with former mare and socialite.

Dear Ms Pendelton, I recently saw you in Rockwell and must say admire your new svelte figure. What did you do: starve, liposuction or was it a really high-tech girdle that I do not know of? As you know, during the holidays everyone gains weight with those endless parties. What's your advice in keeping the pounds off? Cheers

MARIVIC

My dearest darling Marivic, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. All that work at the gym actually paid off. No darling, it was not liposuction—I am deathly afraid of invasive procedures. I did it the old-fashioned way—by going to the gym. You cannot believe how good I feel about myself. I even cough less when I smoke!

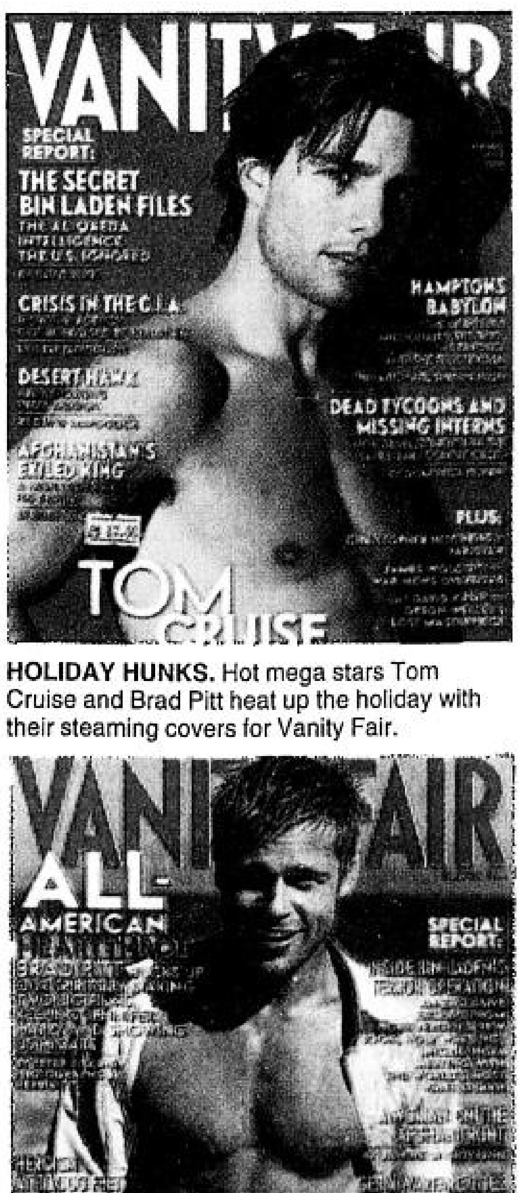
In this holiday season, my best advice is to have a little bit of everything but don't gorge to excess—use the calories for booze! Make sure you take two aspirins and eight glasses of water before going to bed to make sure you're not too hung over so you can still go to the gym the next day. There is nothing more excruciating than going to the gym and trying to work out with your head pounding and a dry mouth. This way, you can really enjoy the season and still look good at the end of it.

And, whatever you do, purging is not a good idea—that's bulimia! Remember, a little food, a lot of booze and **tons** of exercise—that's my regimen.

TNT Christmas wish list. It isn't the best time of the year. We are stuck in traffic all day long, you don't get the presents you want, your credit card is maxed out and you have no significant other to spend it with. Whatever your Christmas is, it really is the best time. So here's TNT's annual Christmas wish list. Enjoy!

President GMA—A much needed R&R and a well-deserved congratulations from the Filipino people for being hardworking, efficient and a superb leader; **Tessa Valdes**—her own TV show so she will stop guesting in other shows; **Joe S, Inno S, Rajo L, Rhett E** and **Pepito A**—more shows, less controversy and more clientele; Malate—better parking spaces; Mati, Shiraz and Fidel—the hip places to see and be seen in, may your tribes increase!; Greenbelt Mall—looks like this will be the mall to beat, but can they do something about that rotunda by New World Hotel, which is too big and will be a major traffic pit! And while I'm at it, I can't believe they placed all those food eateries where the stores used to be. They have garish white lighting and the smell (especially the hotdog resto) is nauseating; Sen. **Tessie Oreta**—nothing, she doesn't deserve a gift at all!; 11 (former and present) senators + **Ping Lacson** —A videotape of Edsa 2 and impeachment hearings. We still remember your crimes, so don't get too comfortable!; Edsa commuters—lights on Edsa, especially nearing Makati. It's soooo dark!; Senators who like to grandstand—no second or third terms, a conscience and a microphone with no sound; for socialites with a penchant for cross, I mean, costume dressing—A subscription to Vogue and Bazaar to learn how to dress up and throw a bash, in style; to all the Filipino people—a safe, love-filled Christmas.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



HOLIDAY HUNKS. Hot mega stars Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt heat up the holiday with their steaming covers for Vanity Fair.

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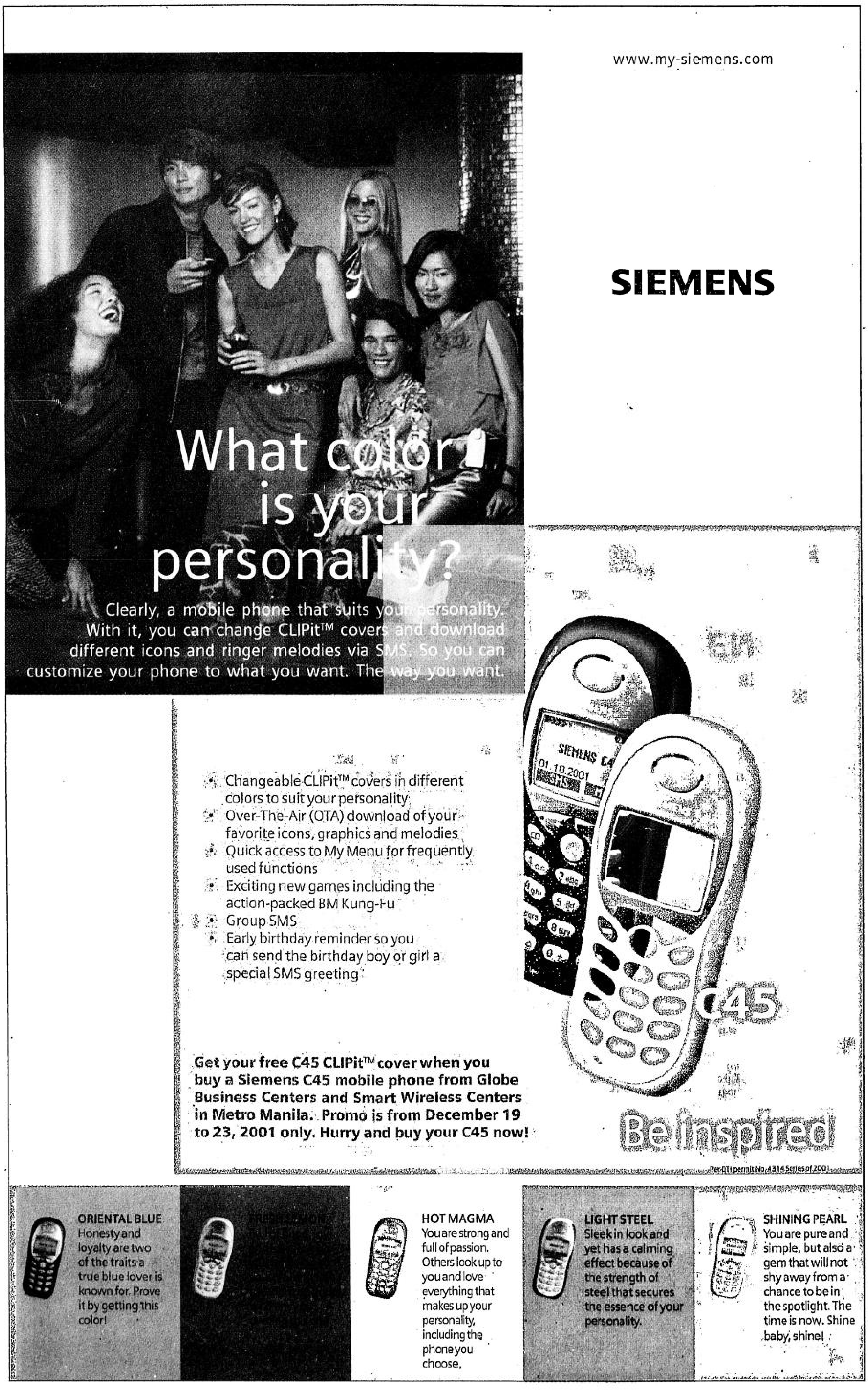
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SHINING PEARL
You are pure and simple, but also a gem that will not shy away from a chance to be in the spotlight. The time is now. Shine baby, shine!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Top Gan

VISIONAIRE
FASHION
2000

By Kitty Go

THERE must be a magazine title for every type of dedicated fashion follower yet could another one, especially one catering to the anointed stylish few, make it? Apparently, for Stephen Gan, the answer is yes. His Visionaire magazine, a virtual "gallery in print," has been up for 10 years and still reigns as *the* fashion must-have every season. Readers of mass-circulated, phone directory-heavy, commercial magazines always comment that they have to leaf through pages and pages of advertising before getting to the table of contents. Not with Visionaire.

After leaving his fashion post at the then-independent publication Details (it is now owned by Conde Nast), the Philippine-born Chinese Gan, established Visionaire in the spring of 1991 together with model Cecilia Dean and makeup artist James Kaliardos. Visionaire is a quarterly that serves as a creative vehicle for the biggest names in design from fashion to architecture. If you were somebody in any style-related field, you had to be in Visonaire. The art book, as Gan calls it, allows contributors the creative freedom they cannot have with commercially driven magazine editorials and advertisements. Although each issue has a theme (with titles like Erotica, Beauty,

TOP/ p.F2

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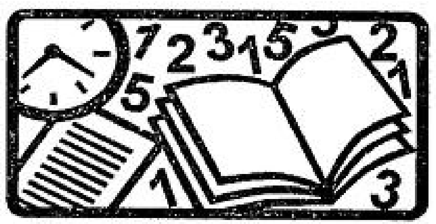
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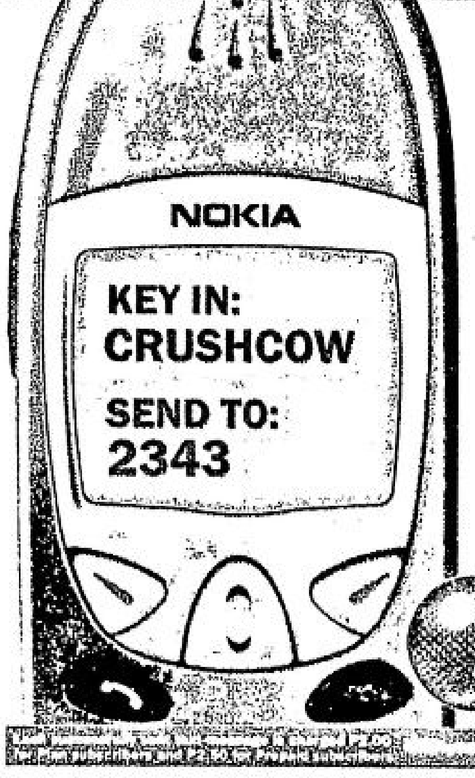

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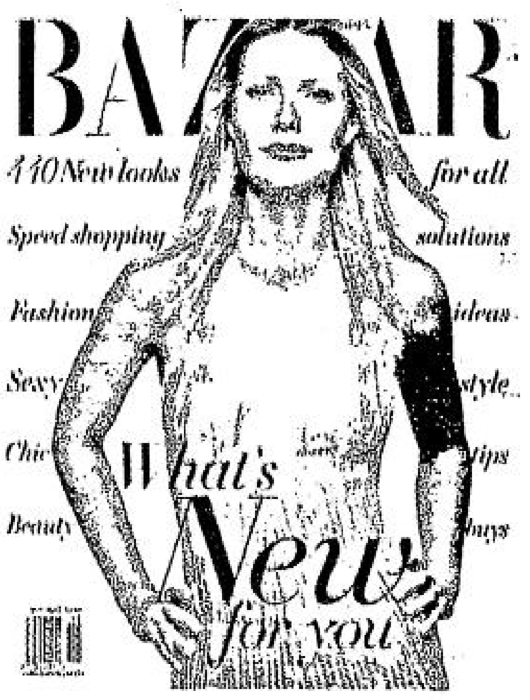
Top Gan

(From page F1)



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Find your new style

Light, Where?), the Visionaire group does not limit contributors as to how many images to submit or how they are interpreted, but the style-setting editorial team always chooses the most powerful ones.

The first issue (01 Spring) of 1,000 copies sold for $10. Today, you'll have to pay $5,000, if you can even find a copy. Visionaire's most popular issue has to be No. 18, the fashion special released in August 1996. The issue is slipped into an authentic Louis Vuitton logo-ed portfolio and currently goes for $2,500 to $5,000. Visionaire has become the only magazine in history that goes up in value before any issue becomes history. Last November, the company released Visionaire 37, Vreeland Memos, an edition of 4,000, compiling Diana Vreeland's internal office memos while she was editor in chief at Vogue. This issue, whose contents are loosely bound and wrapped in red ribbon and packaged in a custom-designed red portfolio, currently retails for $175. Who knows how much it will be worth next year?

Break even

Gan claims the magazine just breaks even. They survive on sales and the occasional sponsorship such as those by Hermes, Fendi, Gucci, De Beers and Prescriptives, companies that understand the direction and vision of the book. Tom Ford guest-edited No. 24 Light (May 1998), which revolved around the concept of a light box. Karl Lagerfeld photographed the entire issue 23, Emperor's New Clothes, which had a 5,000 copy print run. Gan is also no stranger to advertising, having worked on campaigns for Calvin Klein, Shiseido, Hedi Slimane's Dior Homme and Joyce in Hong Kong. Adrienne Ma, managing director of Joyce, told the INQUIRER, "Stephen Gan did an advertising campaign for us for Spring/Summer 1997... We like [his work] very much, especially Visionaire..."

He has also spun off the Visionaire name into a more accessible large-format magazine called V, which Gan says is the ready-to-wear line of Visionaire's couture. This launched in the fall of 1999 and has a circulation of 30,000—miniscule for a Hearst or Conde Nast standard but enough to get the stylish word (and images) out among dedicated followers of fashion.

A surprise that hit the fashion business last summer was when Gan accepted the post of creative director for Harper's Bazaar America. His success with a publication running limited editions of 1,000-5,000 copies per issue, is the farthest concept from the commercial format of Harper's Bazaar. Its new editor, Glenda Bailey, who was formerly editor in chief of Marie-Claire USA, told Women's Wear Daily that she was an admirer of Gan's work at Visionaire. The two met at a dinner at David Bowie and Iman's house. Although both parties admire each other's work, neither wants to do exactly what they have been known for—Gan with his over-the-top creativity sans limits and Bailey with her commercial 367 Fashion and Beauty Ideas. "Glenda Bailey knows exactly what a reader wants and wishes to pick up... I feel I have a vision of what people want to look at... It's a combination that I hope will create the Bazaar of today and tomorrow," said Gan.

Fashion fixture

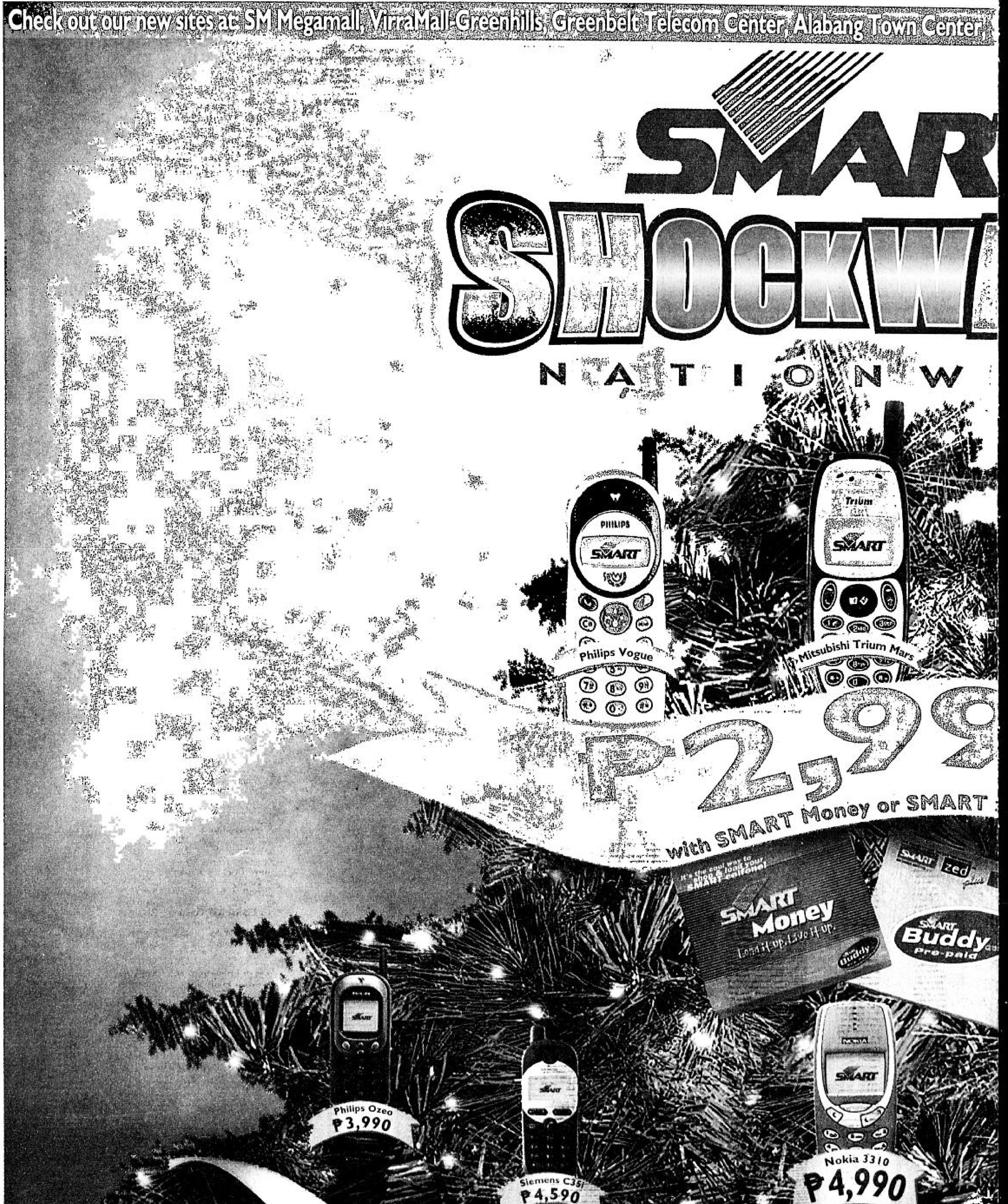
There is speculation among fashion insiders that this marriage of art and commerce in the magazine business may turn rocky. The irreverent fashion website, hintmag.com, in its Cheeky Awards, gave the Pretty in Pink Slip award to Gan as "the fashion-fixture most likely to leave 'to pursue outside interests' in the coming year."

Much has been written about Visionaire yet not much is written about the person behind it. Probably because of the rich, strong and intimidating visuals and high-profile contributors to Visionaire, people often wonder if Gan is a snob. I've known Gan in high school and saw him again a few years ago in Manila when he visited with his sister Elaine and James Kaliardos. I then met Gan again at his all-white, 4,000-sq-ft office at 11 Mercer St. in New York two summers ago, originally to introduce Tim Yap to him for a potential project. In a business where people have nose jobs so they could turn them up at the less fashionable, Gan and his staff (from the receptionist to Kaliardos) were the exception. They were all very accommodating and relatively chatty. Except for Gan. He didn't make very much conversation but I credit that to shyness than to being unfriendly or uncooperative. But if there is one thing he does know, it's appearances and image. "I have to go home and change first," he said when I asked if we could take a photo of him. He returned in an extremely stylish and well-fitted pearl gray suit and black leather slippers. None other than Donald McPherson (who happened to be in the waiting room) took our photo using Tim's instamatic camera.

Gan is one of those people for whom there is no other life other than a creative one. He has no idea what he would do if he weren't in the fashion media. "[I would work in] a bakery, perhaps?" he wonders. He credits the first fashion show he saw at 19, that of Comme des Garcons, as his most memorable one. His visual talent was evident as early as elementary school when he was commissioned in fifth grade to do a painting for one of Xavier school's public areas. His brother Andrew reminisces on Stephen's talent. "He was editor of the school paper but he always loved to draw and was forever taking classes from ceramics to Chinese painting. When he was in third or fourth grade, he came up with the idea of making Christmas cards using felt paper cutouts glued onto art paper and sold them to relatives (Possibly the subliminal beginnings of No. 33 Touch, coproduced with Fendi where tactile plates were wrapped in pony skin)."

When asked how he would bring commercially viable images to Bazaar after he has worked for years without the creative constraints of the commercial magazine business, Gan just said, "Wait and see..." Part of an editorial revamp is identifying the target reader. About the Harper's Bazaar reader, Gan told the INQUIRER, "She's chic and sophisticated and loves fashion." He did not take an entire staff with him to Bazaar. Although he plans to change the old look of the book, he only took one art director with him. He and Bailey are currently working with Patrick Demarchelier, Inez Van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, Hiro, Richard Burbridge, Donald McPherson, among many others. The changes to the magazine started with the November 2001 issue with Gwyneth Paltrow on the cover, followed by the December issue with Meg Ryan on the cover. The complete Bailey-Gan transformation will not be complete until February 2002.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com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Investment scams may be scaring off foreign investors, too

IT'S not just the peace and order situation that has been scaring investors away from the Philippines. As one reader wrote to us recently, people don't want to go into business these days because of investment scams that have become alarmingly rampant in this country.

Reader Mr. T (name withheld) complained that countless people were being victimized these days. Unfortunately, folks don't know where to go for assistance, either to get information or to file complaints. Need we add that complaints often fly out of the windows of government offices, or are consigned to oblivion.

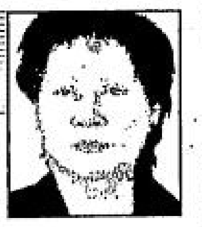
Mr. T disclosed that he was one of about 710 investors who were lured to invest their lifetime savings in a realty firm that specialized in market placements. Controlled by a former Chinese banker, the investment firm was also into condominium projects. Unfortunately for hapless investors, the firm went out of business more than a year ago.

To warn innocent folks, Mr. T requested us to publish his letter. He wrote: "Take my case and 712 other individuals who entrusted our millions to this realty firm controlled by a Chinese ethnic who had a woman partner. Unfortunately, he declared a debt moratorium on March 28, 2000. Billions of pesos are still locked up with the realty firm.

"Since 1993, or before the real estate boom, he has been enticing money market placements into the firm. Although it was a clear violation of Securities and Exchange (Commission) rule, with no quasi-banking license at that, he supposedly hired 12 money market traders from Metro Manila banks to generate billions of pesos for condominium projects.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



"Most of the condominium projects are still unfinished, with debt obligations to 15 banks amounting to about billions of pesos. Accordingly, he managed to withdraw billions of pesos in personal cash advance before declaring debt relief and filing for the firm's rehabilitation with the SEC."

The investors, according to Mr. T, are mostly traders from Makati and Greenhills who are still suffering and weeping over their losses. "They are scared and ashamed to come out in the open to complain, especially in media for fear of kidnappers, business creditors, etc."

Price stickers on wrong place

WE share the same frustration with shopper Linda B. about the hit-or-miss placement of price stickers on merchandise in supermarkets. Because the task is haphazardly done, the stickers often cover vital information such as expiration date, nutrition information and list of ingredients.

"Why doesn't the Bureau of Food and Drugs issue a guideline on the correct placement of price stickers on product labels? What's the good of setting product label standards if the information consumers should know are obscured by stickers?"

Tampered phone cards

GINA Celestino wrote: "I bought seven Smart 300 cellular phone cards in Timog, QC. However, two of the cards were not in sequence with the others. They had also been tampered with, I found out when I reported it to the Smart office. It had already been loaded into two different cell phones the day before I bought them. I complained to the store that sold me the cards, but they did not bother to reply. I am still hoping to get action on my complaint from the store. By the way, I appreciate the assistance of Charlotte Holganza from Smart customer service."

Missing contact lens

MARY Ann L. shares her experience to warn contact lens users about sloppy shop service.

She wrote: "I am a regular customer of an optical shop and I went there to consult them about the irritation I felt in my left eye. The personnel said the lens had to be boiled [by them] since I had been using it for six months. They suggested that both lenses should be boiled, and I agreed.

"When I claimed my lenses three days later, I was surprised to find only one lens. They kept on insisting that I gave them only one lens. After a long argument, they agreed to replace the missing lens with a cheaper, disposable one. However, when I tried to put the lenses on, the left one had the wrong grade! Obviously, in their carelessness, they mismatched the lenses and misplaced them.

"I advice other optical shops to be more careful. They should immediately label the lenses to avoid mix-matching or misplacing them. And they should admit their fault so they don't lose customers."

Toll bar damage

FROM JO Tan comes this warning to E-pass holders using South Luzon expressway.

She wrote: "I was driving through a toll booth that accepted cash and e-pass at SLEX. As my van has e-pass, I proceeded as usual and drove on [as the light changed to] green after the gadget beeped and the bar lifted. I was shocked when the bar suddenly came down again and crashed on the roof of my van. The impact broke the bar and caused dents and scratches on my car.

"I was summoned to the toll office beside the gate, where the guard accused me of not stopping when he tried to stop me. I explained that I passed because all the signals indicated clearance. However, the supervisor told me it didn't mean drivers could proceed even when the e-pass gadget beeped, the bar was up and the light was green. To make matters worse, I was told to pay P1,000 for damaging the bar, otherwise, they would forward my license to the PNP for causing damage to property!

"Please warn other motorists. It could happen to them, too."

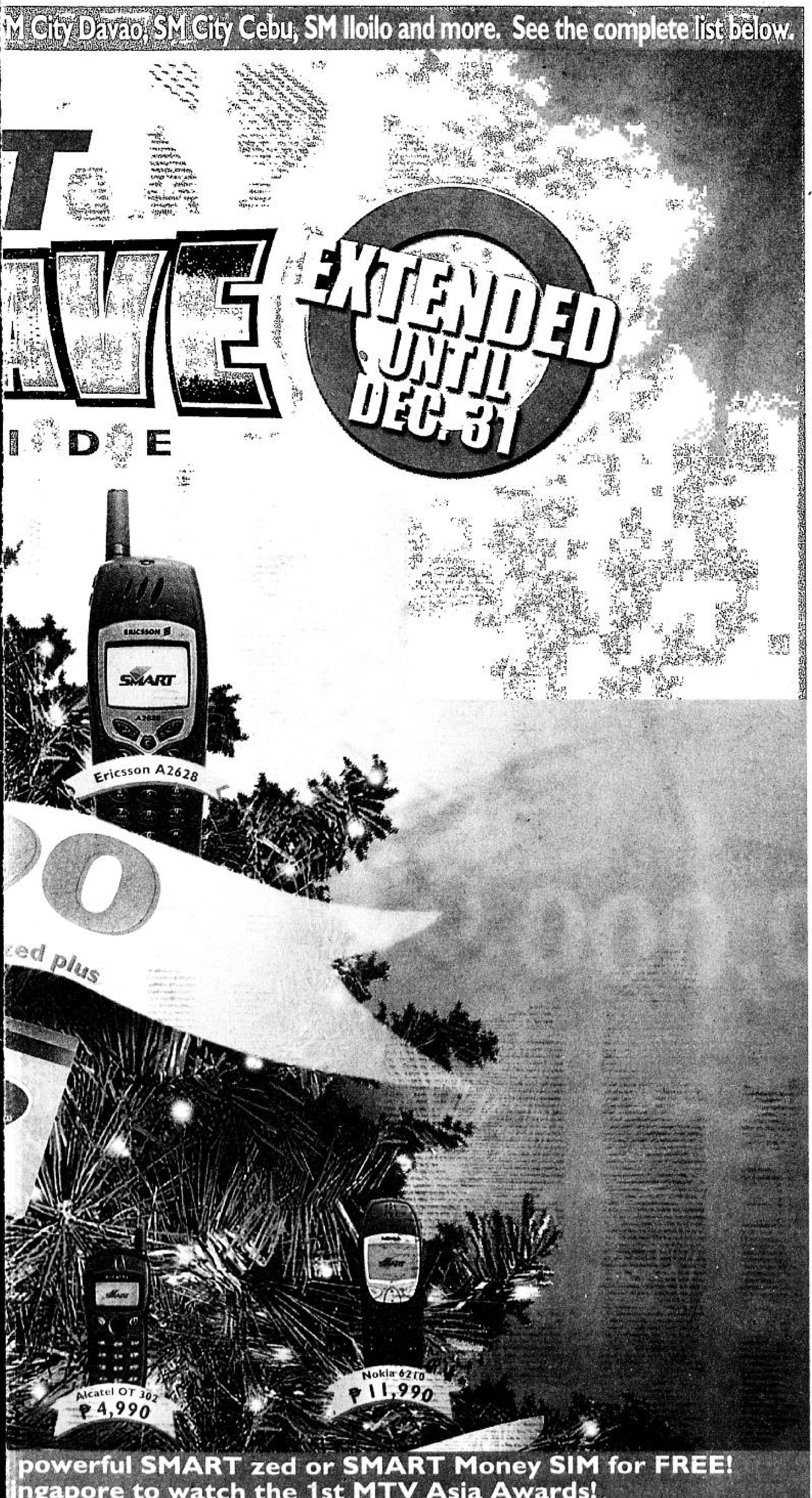
E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

Mecca for bargain seekers

RECESSION may be in the air, but it's a banner season for shops offering moderately priced merchandise. One of these shops is Designer Depot, a factory outlet where one can get as much as 50 percent discount on branded items. Little wonder it has become the mecca of bargain seekers. Recently, the complex has added an arts and crafts store.

Called Hidden Treasures, the shop features collectibles and decorative items sourced here and abroad. The shop also has practical gift items selling at near wholesale prices: chopsticks in exquisite design and colors, aromatic oil burners, pigeon holes that are actually small storage boxes, assorted candles, needlepoint, trendy photo frames and handmade placemats. Among a treasure trove of bestsellers that include paper lamp, clay teapots and exotic jade pillows are portable fountains that sit well on any desktop or side table.

Hidden Treasures is located at South Superhighway and Quirino Avenue.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WIN FABULOUS PRIZES IN THE MOST EXCITING CHRISTMAS PROMOS!

- Cash, showcases and more can be yours! Over ₱5,000,000 in prizes are at stake in the SMART Amazing Christmas Treat! Just grab a SMART celfone, reload or call abroad via SMART IDD and win any of the three fabulous showcases worth ₱200,000 each! Or even win the ₱2,000,000 grand prize!
  **See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1939. Series of 2001.*
- Win a trip for a barkada of five to the First MTV Asia Awards in Singapore plus ₱25,000 shopping money for each barkada member in the SMART Barkada SIM SWAP Raffle Promo. Simply SIM Swap as a group to earn raffle entries.
  **See flyers for details.*

JAZZ UP WITH THE NEW SMART-MTV MONEY CARDS!

- SMART Money and MTV have tied up to bring you the new SMART-MTV Cards! Call 845-7755 and get your all-jazzed up SMART-MTV Card for free!

Visit us at all SMART Wireless Centers, TSI Outlets, TSI Blitzes, ADI Telecom, Telemartcom, Semicon, selected Megacellular, Uno Communications, Topwin Telecom, Best Communications Branches nationwide and at all Shockwave sites!

Metro Manila:
Alabang Town Center (*G/F Rotonda near National Bookstore, G/F New Wing in front of Havin' A Baby, 2/F Hallway - TSI*)
Festival Mall, Alabang (*1/L-near Auntie Anne's*)
Glorietta, Makati (*Telecom Lane*)
Greenbelt (*Telecom Center*)
Marikina Riverbanks Center (*G/F, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall*)
Robinson's Place, Manila (*1/L, between Katya and Alexis*)
SM Fairview (*UGF, near Maxim's *until Dec. 26 only*)
SM Megamall (*5/F-TSI and 2/F Bridgeway*)
SM North EDSA (*G/F Carpark-TSI*)
SM Southmall (*UGF*)
VirraMall Greenhills

Luzon:
CSI, City Mall, Dagupan (*G/F*)
Ilocano Heroes Hall, Laoag
Liana's, Calamba (*G/F Entrance*)
Magic Mall, Urdaneta City (*3/F*)
Magic Star Mall, Tarlac (*G/F Entrance*)
NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan (*G/F Atrium*)
Recar Mall, Balanga, Bataan (*2/F*)
Robinson's Pampanga (*G/F*)
Robinson's Place, Imus (*Mall Lobby 4/F-TSI*)
Saver's Mall, Angeles City (*G/F*)
SM City Pampanga (*G/F*)
Sunshine Mall Baguio (*2/F*)
Winstar SBMA, Subic Olongapo

Visayas:
SM Cebu (*Atrium in front of Bibo*)
SM Iloilo (*2/F in between Surplus Shop and Jewelry Store*)
Robinson's Bacolod (*G/F near escalator*)
Dynasty Square, Tacloban (*G/F Entrance*)

Mindanao:
SM City Davao (*3/F, Quantum Area*)
Limketkai Mall, Cagayan De Oro (*Activity Area*)

For details, please call us at tel. nos:
ADI Telecom Branches, 637-1011; Semicon Branches, 681-4965; Uno Comm, Best Comm and Topwin Telecom Branches, 715-4404/3553/3555; Megacellular Branches, 526-5151 to 53; Telemartcom Outlets, 781-0701 to 03.

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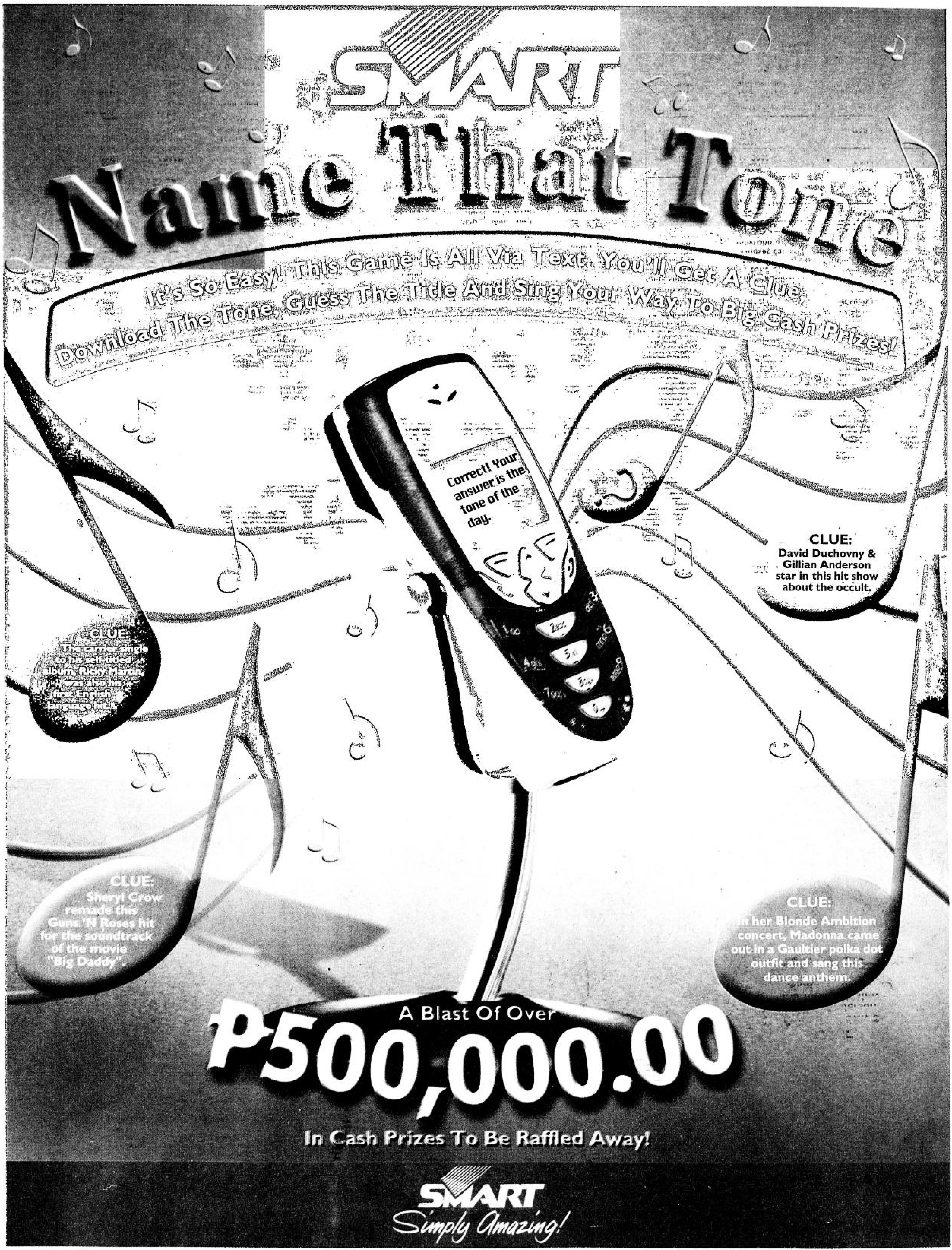
I, Excell: Shangri-la, Mandaluyong: TCA/Ephone; Sta. Lucia East Grandmall: TCA/Ephone; Tutuban Center: TCA/Ephone **Luzon:** Aparri: BNM Telecom Ents., Angge's Boutique Gift Shop.: Tuguegarao: AGDAMAG News Stand, Centeno's Public Calling Office: Bayombong: CELLSHOP, One Value Place; Santiago: Gift Shop: Baguio/Benguet: AMGLO, Lion's Den Rest., Piltel Bus. Office, St. Louis University blitz, La Trinidad Public Mkt, Tiongsan, Blue Ocean, (Baguio Center Mall), Pines Multi Telecom, Mt. Studio, Maxi Photo: San Fernando, La Union: Cases Boulevard, San Nicolas, Agoo blitz, Oriental Trading, Alpha Delta General JTC Supermarket, Bantay; Miko Dept Store, Vigan City; Ilocos Norte: Mercury Drug Store Rizal St., Laoag; Bacarra Public Market; TXT Cellular, Bonifacio St., Laoag City; Multi line Telecoms, Abadilla St., cor Bonifacio St., Laoag City; Bulacan: Balagtas Blitz, Balagtas Public Market; Bernardo's Gift Shop, Public Market, n St., San Fernando; Saltel Marketing, Pob., Guagua; SM City, Pampanga Olongapo: Puregold SBMA; Funtastic Subic SBMA; Balanga: Centre Mall (3/F) Tarlac: Camiling Public Mkt blitz, PLDT Tarlac Exchange (San Nicolas) Cellquest (Magic Star Mall), RJP Phonemart, Tarlac Hausware Marketing; Calamba: Brian Photolab, ty **Visayas:** Bacolod: Galleon Trading, SD Tan, OMNI Mktg, Cellen , Jaymes Trading, C4K Tacloban: Cellcom, Dualcom, Evsun, TM Cellular; Iloilo: 3Starcom Enterprises, Aceland, Diphcom, Videocom, Sharkbyte, Taneza Enterprises, Broad Horizon, Wesfardel (Roxas Gaisano); Cebu: Audionet, Cebu Cellular, Prince de, Y Telecoms, RXY, Comserve, Maconfi, Cell Station, JS CitiMall, Davao: Radiant, Celltone; Gaisano Mall, Davao: Micropcell, Symphony; Victoria Plaza, Davao: Call sign, Ringtone: SM City, Davao: I Hop, Wyltelcom; Butuan: Star Cellulars; Dipolog: Metro Shoppers, Janvic Ent.; Ozamis: Gold Square, Pharmacia Jessica, CJ Comm, Cellutel, Truvoice, Sendtel, Celluline, Celfone Lab, Arcade Mdsg; Zamboanga: Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe, Sir Pong Mktg., Dial Tone, CJ Cellphone Plus, Aboobut Direct Line, Kiko Cellular Shoppe, Zaragosa Cellular Shoppe, Daily Plan Mktg.


SMART
Name That Tone
It's So Easy! This Game Is All Via Text. You'll Get A Clue, Download The Tone, Guess The Title And Sing Your Way To Big Cash Prizes!
Correct! Your answer is the tone of the day.
CLUE: David Duchovny & Gillian Anderson star in this hit show about the occult.
CLUE: The carrier single to the self-titled album, Ricky Martin, was also his first English language hit.
CLUE: Sheryl Crow remade this Guns 'N Roses hit for the soundtrack of the movie "Big Daddy".
CLUE: In her Blonde Ambition concert, Madonna came out in a Gaultier polka dot outfit and sang this dance anthem.
A Blast Of Over
₱500,000.00
In Cash Prizes To Be Raffled Away!
SMART
Simply Amazing!

SMART NAME THAT TONE SETS THE BEAT FOR SOUNDS AND PRIZES

Register Now!

Key in NTT and send to 234.
Then follow the succeeding instructions;

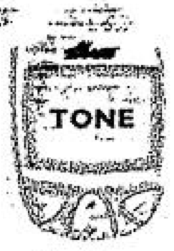
- Key in NAME <your full name> and send to 234.
- Key in BIRTH <mmddyyyy> and send to 234.
- Key in ADD <address> and send to 234.

Your registration automatically earns you a raffle entry for all weekly draws.

The theme from the Emmy Award winning TV series on the lighter side of law.

Play The Game!

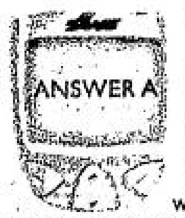
You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.



Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234. Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

A. Ally McBeal
B. Law and Order
C. The Practice



Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Weekly, Monthly and Grand draws.

INVITE
09182442322

Invite Your Friends And Earn More Raffle Entries!

Key in INVITE <your friend's SMART celfone number> and send to 234. Each invite earns you 1 raffle entry, to be added to your total raffle entries.

To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.

To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.

The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

WIN THESE PRIZES!

DRAW DATE	CASH PRIZE
GRAND DRAW: (1 winner) Feb. 11, 2002	₱200,000.00
MONTHLY DRAWS: (1 winner per draw) Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Dec. 21, 2001, Jan. 2, 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

**There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.*

**Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.*

**Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.*

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SYKES℠

With 44 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. From its Manila Call center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.

Customer Service Manager (CSM)

- Bachelor's degree in Consumer Affairs, Business Administration or Communications
- Previous Product and Client responsibility, with a minimum of 3 years experience in a call center management role in a customer service or support function
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Experience in working with people on different levels, with proven excellent customer service skills
- Experience in negotiation and diplomacy
- Experience in budgeting and adept in analyzing statistical information

Technical Support Engineers - Asian Languages (TSE - Asian Lang)

- College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- Has working knowledge on the internet and other computer applications
- Fluent in any of the following languages:
  - Mandarin
  - Korean
  - Japanese

Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)

- College graduate of any 4 or 5 years course
- Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
- Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)

- Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)

- Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris, or HP/UX)
- Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

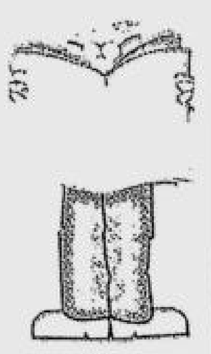
Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)

- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
- Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows, Macintosh or Unix
- Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Proven skills in business willing and phone handling
- Strong customer service orientation, analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- Willingness to work on a shifting schedule is essential

Interested applicants may submit their updated CV's with a photocopy of their Transcript of Records to:

**SYKES ASIA, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
4th Floor San Miguel Properties Center,
St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Mandaluyong City
Fax: +632-910-1559
email: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
http://www.sykes.com**

Where you find the best.



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SAMSUNG

**SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS. CORPORATION
is in need of the following:**

MIS MANAGER

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or any I.T. related course
- Has at least 5 years minimum related experience in network management and MIS processes
- Knowledge in SAP/R3
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

SALES BRANCH MANAGER

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any business related course
- Computer literate with excellent verbal and written communication skills
- With 3 years minimum experience in sales and marketing of consumer electronics products
- A Resident of Davao

TELECOMS MANAGER

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With 3 years minimum experience in telecoms preferably has worked for reputable telecommunication companies
- Computer literate with good communication skills

TELECOMS ASSISTANT

- Male or female, not more than 24 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering or Business Administration course preferably fresh graduates
- Computer literate with good communication skills

PLEASE SEND RESUMÉ AS BODY OF THE E-MAIL TO:

**THE HRD DEPARTMENT
E-mail address: phoebe@samsung.co.kr**

TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, BEST IN SERVICE AND DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD, IS IN SEARCH OF TOP CALIBER TEAM MEMBERS TO FILL IN THE JOB VACANCIES!!!

1. MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- male/female, not more than 27 years old
- graduate of any four-year course
- willing to do field works
- with pleasing personality

2. SERVICE ADVISOR

- male, not more than 28 years old
- preferably Mechanical Engineering graduate
- computer literate
- must know how to drive

Please bring your resumé and 2x2 picture:

**HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS**
124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bo. Ugong Pasig
Tel. Nos. 671-98-54 to 64

NOTE: Apply Monday to Friday
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
Previous applicant need not apply.

A well established first class retail company is in need of top caliber individuals to apply as

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Code: R-HR

- ☑ Female, at least 26 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- ☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources
- ☑ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- ☑ Must have the potential work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- ☑ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- ☑ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- ☑ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

**P.O. BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City**

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

GLOBALSOFT
Research, Inc.

Globalsoft Research, Inc. is a software development and IT services firm. We help clients save time and effort with our accounting and inventory software. We have an opening for:

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

The hired candidate shall be part of a team that would design and develop new versions of Globalsoft Accounting Software. He or she shall also perform software customizations and provide implementation support to clients.

We are looking for graduates of Computer Science or Accountancy. The candidate must be quick learner, quality oriented and programming enthusiast.

Please submit your resume, transcript of records and recent photo to:

GLOBALSOFT RESEARCH, INC.
1903B West Tower, Phil. Stock Exch., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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EDPITAF

**Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE**

**Philippines-Australia
Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao Project
(PA - BEAM)**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- ➢ All positions are contractual, i.e, co-terminous with project life.
- ➢ Applicants should be willing to relocate to Davao City (where the project office will be located) at no extra cost to the Project.
- ➢ Prospective hirees should be willing to travel to project sites within Regions XI, XII and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).
- ➢ Issuance of Contract of Employment is bi-annual renewal of which is subject to the semestral evaluation of job performance.
- ➢ Letter of Intent should be forwarded not later than 21 December, 2001 to:

**TERESITA D. FELIPE
Executive Director
DepEd - EDPITAF
2/F Dorm D, PSC-NAS Complex
Meralco Avenue
Pasig City**

LIST OF VACANCIES

(In compliance with RA 7041)

2 Project Dev't. Officer IV

SG: 22; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Must have held a senior management position for the last five (5) years • Experience in managing and facilitating training, conferences and seminars • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Familiarity in government accounting rules and procedures • Has good communication skills, written and oral; and Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

2 Project Dev't. Officer III

SG18; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Must have held a junior management position for the last five (5) years • Good working knowledge in government accounting rules and procedures • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Experience in managing and facilitating trainings, conferences and seminars • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Has good communication skills, written and oral; Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

1 Project Dev't. Officer II

SG: 15; Bachelor's degree holder • Minimum of five (5) years exposure in implementing foreign-assisted projects • Experience in facilitating training, conferences and seminars • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Familiarity in government accounting rules and procedures • Has good communication skills, written and oral; Completion of relevant trainings (120 hours)

1 Project Dev't. Officer I

SSG: 11; Bachelor's degree holder • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Experience in facilitating trainings, conferences and seminars • Proficiency in the application of relevant computer softwares • Has good communication skills, written and oral.

1 Computer Operator III

SG: 12; Completion of at least two years college studies • Preferably with skills proficiency certification on the application and maintenance or relevant computer softwares as issued by the CSC • Ability to deal with cross-cultural differences • Has good communication skills, written and oral.

1 Driver II

SG: 3; At least high school graduate • Minimum of five (5) years driving experience • With professional driver's license • With 20-20 vision • Can undertake minor mechanical repairs of the vehicle.

1 Utility Worker II

SG: 3; At least high school graduate • Must know how to operate office machines.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
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MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

EASTERN TELECOMS

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. is a full service company providing a wide range of services from data, voice and Internet products. Eastern Telecoms was founded over a century ago in 1870. And since the old days of telegraph services until our Internet services of today, we have maintained a reputation for quality service and excellent customer care.

Our Company is looking for Caring, Responsible and Dynamic individuals to participate in a worthwhile relationship we wish to offer:

SALES MANAGERS

Job Functions:

☑ Responsible for planning, developing, implementing and monitoring all sales activities of Strategic Business Units and Channel Partners;
☑ Will ensure achievement of business plan targets by the sales team; and
☑ Able to carry out the business leadership goals of the Company in its primary target markets.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
☑ With 5 – 7 years minimum sales experience
☑ Possess robust managerial capabilities
☑ A strategic thinker and with good problem-solving abilities
☑ Good interpersonal relations, systematic and organized

PRODUCT MANAGERS

Job Functions:

☑ Responsible for the development and management of voice, data and Internet products;
☑ Defines service delivery, customer and technical support processes;
☑ Formulates product strategies, pricing policies and business plans;
☑ Matrix management of operational and technical projects;
☑ Product promotions; and
☑ Ensures proper monitoring and management of budget allocations and product profitability.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, or Electronics & Communications Engineering
☑ Must have at least 5 – 7 years marketing experience
☑ Possess robust managerial capabilities
☑ A strategic thinker and with good problem-solving abilities
☑ Good interpersonal relations, systematic and organized

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Job Function:

☑ Responsible for maintaining, managing and expanding the organization's business relationships with existing customers and exploring new business opportunities with the end view of delivering the sales targets established for the year.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
☑ Must have at least 2 years sales experience
☑ Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
☑ Ability to deal with people at all levels
☑ Good communication skills
☑ Dynamic, creative, assertive, energetic and results-driven

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Job Function:

☑ Directly supervise the day to day operations of the Call Center covering the following groups: Operator and Telex services, Inbound and Outbound Groups.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must have at least two years experience as a Call Center Supervisor preferably in a Telecom company
☑ With mastery of call center operations
☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
☑ Must possess good communication skills
☑ Customer friendly and flexible

TELEMARKETERS

Job Function:

☑ Conducts sales, promotions and collection-related callouts to help boost sales and facilitate collection; and
☑ Provides Customer Feedback on all customer complaints encountered and confirms customer satisfaction to the services provided.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must have at least one year experience as a Telemarketer preferably in a Telecom company or Call Center
☑ With knowledge on Customer Management Systems preferably ICMS
☑ Must possess good communication skills
☑ Good voice quality and with good diction
☑ Customer friendly, dependable, strong sense of commitment and responsibility, highly flexible
☑ Computer literate

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Job Functions:

☑ Assists in the development and execution of the company's Marketing Communications plan which include advertising, promotions, direct and mass marketing, and special events; and
☑ Ensures that all marketing communications and activities deliver their intended messages in the most effective manner possible in support of the Company's Market Positioning strategy.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Marketing, Business Management/Administration, Economics or Advertising
☑ At least one year experience in any of the following fields: advertising, marketing communications, and special events management
☑ Must be computer literate (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
☑ Must possess good organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
☑ Must be results- and process-oriented

MARKET INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATE

Job Functions:

☑ Designs and implements Market Demand Reading projects and Product Research;
☑ Conducts secondary research for demand forecasting, product development, and identification of primary target markets; and
☑ Performs competitive intelligence reports on competitor's strategies, product offerings and output performance to evaluate competitiveness of ETPI's products and services.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Statistics, Economics, Communication Research or equivalent
☑ Working experience in statistical software like SPSS, a great advantage

STAFF ASSISTANT (for Strategic Planning)

Job Functions:

☑ Data gathering and analysis of information required for the development of ETPI's 5-Year Business Plan;
☑ Development and management of business and financial models as may be required to support ETPI's 5-Year Plan, strategic investments, and special projects; and
☑ Progress monitoring of Special Projects of Corporate Strategy.

Requirements:

☑ Ideal candidate must be a graduate of Marketing or Economics
☑ Experience in business modeling an advantage
☑ Possess above-average organizational and interpersonal skills
☑ Assertive, results-oriented, highly analytical, and must possess a sound business aptitude
☑ Familiar with voice, data and integrated communication services, an advantage
☑ Proficient in Windows applications

Candidates from other industries such as banking, hospitality, consumer, manufacturing, applications providers, IT vendors among others are most welcomed.

If you think you are qualified to join our dynamic Company, please send your resume with 2x2 photo to:

The Vice President
Human Resources & Administration Department
6th Floor Telecoms Plaza Building, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City
or e-mail us at: recruitment-hrd@etpi.com.ph
(please indicate the position title you are applying for)

SYKES℠

Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Sykes has over 14,000 employees and operates 39 customer support centers, four e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 17 branch offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

MANDARIN AND CANTONESE LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

Providing world-class customer service to our partners from the Asia Pacific Region, the Consultant shall provide language (Mandarin/Cantonese) support to its clients.

Qualified applicants must have excellent written and spoken Mandarin/Cantonese language skills, working knowledge with the different Operating Systems (Windows 98/2000, NT, etc.), familiarity with Mac and the different Microsoft Applications and Internet. Also, applicants should have excellent customer service orientation. This consultancy position is for a fixed-term contract with a consultancy rate of Php 30,000.00.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé via e-mail to **hrd@man.ph.sykes.com** or mail it to 4F SMPC Bldg., St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

What Drives You

The Job: Health, Environment & Safety Coordinator

Collaboration with business unit managers in the development and maintenance of cost-effective EHS (Environment, Health & Safety) management systems. Participation in all local compliance reviews and facilitating the implementation of recommendations. Initiating plans aimed at instituting innovative solutions to minimize environmental risks to surrounding local communities. Conducting EHS training programs to company employees as well as business partners from outside the company. Monitoring of local EHS related legislative or regulatory developments and participation in formulation of advocacy strategies.

The Person.

Graduate of any of the Science courses with at least 5 years related work experience. Should have an extensive exposure on environmental site assessment and remediation preferably from the refining or manufacturing industry. Must be wiling to travel extensively.

Working for a diverse and globally competitive company. Caltex, a **ChevronTexaco** company, has a business network that spans the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and the Middle East. Caltex is committed to maximizing a multi-cultural work force and valuing the uniqueness of each individual. Our vision is to be the global energy company most admired for its people, partnership and performance. Our passion is to achieve results that exceed expectations—that of our own and those of others.

If you share the same values and passion, you may send your application to Caltex—Human Resources, 6F 6750, Ayala Avenue 1226, Makati City. Please indicate the position you are applying for at the upper left hand corner of the envelope. Closing date is on 28 December 2001.

CALTEX

Caltex is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a Caltex career. Application letters will be filed for future reference for a maximum of 6 months.

ENKEI

A QS 9000 Certified Japanese export manufacturing company of aluminum wheel is in need of the following:

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

☑ Male, 25 to 27 years old
☑ Licensed Electrical Engineer
☑ With at least 2 years experience on the same field
☑ Must be capable in doing preventive maintenance for genset, aircon, forklift, LPG and electrical equipment
☑ Computer literate and can work with minimum supervision

COMPANY NURSE

☑ Male or female, 24 to 30 years old
☑ P.R.C. License - Registered Nurse
☑ With at least one (1) year experience in a manufacturing company
☑ Computer literate and willing to render overtime
☑ Knowledgeable in processing/filing documents to government/medical agencies

Interested party are advised to apply in person with their updated resumé, 2x2 photo, and transcript of records to:

ENKEI PHILIPPINES, INC.
104 Industry Drive, Carmelray Industrial Park
Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna
Tels. (049) 549-0161 to 62
or
E-mail us at maylen.garcia@enkei.com.ph

A Pharmaceutical Company is in search for an:

ACCOUNTANT

- Male/female, not more than 28 years old
- Good communication skills (oral and written)
- Graduate of B.S. Accounting
- Knowledge in Computer
- Preferably with experience in a Pharmaceuticals Company

This is an immediate requirement; all interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, copy of transcript of records, with 2x2 picture to:

Unit 902-A West Tower
Tektite Bldg. PSE Ctr.
Exchange Road, Ortigas
Pasig City

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL / GENERAL

USAID-funded health logistics project requires six (6) energetic, conscientious individuals to participate as interviewers/data collectors for a 4-week health logistics system assessment to be conducted on 21 January to 15 February 2002.

Assignment will include:

- One (1) week assessment orientation training near Manila
- Three (3) weeks data collection in urban and rural health facilities in six regions

Region I	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union
Region III	Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales
Region IV	Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon
Region VI	Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo
Region VII	Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor
Region XI	Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and South Cotabato

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience in field surveys
- Willingness to commit to a 4-week assignment
- Physical ability to travel in both urban and potentially difficult rural settings
- Familiarity with the areas (an advantage)

Requirements:

- Resumé (highlighting relevant experience)
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2 x 2 photo

Successful candidates will receive a reasonable daily consulting fee, per diem and travel allowances.

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Ms. KATE MALSI** of **John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila.** Deadline of submission is on **8 January 2002.**

URGENT HIRING!!!

The leading manufacturer of pharmaceutical products in the Philippines is in need of qualified personnel for its 2002 expansion.

PHARMACIST licensed or not
CHEMIST
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST
PRODUCTION LINE WORKERS
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS
MICROBIOLOGIST
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
COMPOUNDER

Interested applicants must apply in person with their credentials on December 26-28, 2001 at 63 Toro Hills, Congressional Ave., Quezon City.

For inquiries please call 922-96-10 to 11. Look for Mark.

Orientation to Qualified Applicants will start on January 7, 2002.

We Urgently Need Highly-Skilled Individuals for the following positions:

Technical Support Engineer
Sales Executive

- Male or female with a computer-related degree from a reputable college or university
- In-depth knowledge on PC hardware, Windows OS and graphics/video applications
- Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

PC-based Video Editor

- Male or female with extensive experience in PC-based non-linear video editing
- Preferably with background in PC networking (LAN)

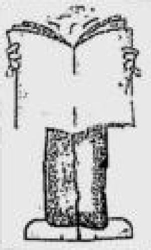
Café Manager

- Male or female with experience in restaurant/cafe management
- Preferably with background in computer operation

Cook

- At least 2 years working experience in a restaurant

Due to the urgency, please e-mail your resumé to hason@pacific.net.ph, or apply in person (bring 2x2 photo, resumé and other credentials) at address: Unit 701 Global Tower Bldg., Gen. Mascardo St. corner Capt. M. Reyes Sts., Bangkal, Makati City.



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URGENT RECRUITMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

is in need of a qualified individual for the position of:

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT – Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Reporting to a Portfolio Manager, performs a variety of research, technical, monitoring and moderate administrative services related to programme activities, in pursuit of UNDP thrusts and objectives. Tasks and duties includes:

1. *Project Formulation* - Conducts researches and studies related to project formulation in support of the Country Office thrusts, drafting inputs to Preparatory Assistance Documents and Programme/Project Documents, preparing reports and programme profiles for presentation and providing inputs for the development of Consultants' Terms of Reference; assists in resource mobilization activities of the unit
2. *Networking/Liaising* - Establishes contacts/networks and gathers baseline information on potential project participants; coordinates and follows up with Government and private sector participants on relevant actions
3. *Project Implementation* - Ensures timely & quality technical assistance through implementing & facilitating activities and monitoring & evaluation activities
4. *Related administrative support services* - Establishes and maintains liaison with Administration and/or staff counterpart level of other UN agencies, project management, government offices and other partners to facilitate the delivery of programme support requirements; follows up on management actions
5. Supports UNDP advocacy through close coordination with Government on related activities

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree preferably in Natural or Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Development Management, Economics, or other related field; Master's degree or units a plus; with at least 2 years of experience in programme/project management and development; at least 3-4 years experience in dealing with donors, government, the academe, NGOS, POs, other institutions; good command of English, both oral and written; ability to write clearly and concisely and to be verbally articulate; computer literate (windows-based programs and applications).

Initial appointment of 6 months subject to extension depending on satisfactory performance and medical clearance. Salary is tax-free.

Applications with complete resume must be received not later than **4 January 2002** at the PERSONNEL UNIT, P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, or email address registry.ph@undp.org, or fo.phl@undp.org or fax 816-4061, 893-9598. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

FASHION TEACHERS NEEDED

An International Fashion School in Manila requires teachers with expertise in the following areas:

FASHION MARKETING
RETAIL BUYING
FASHION DRAPING
PATTERN MAKING
INDUSTRIAL SEWING

Applicants **must** possess relevant post-secondary education and work experience.

Fax resumé and cover letter to:
521-2593

only qualified applicants will be considered

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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mhe DEMAG

Our multinational company is a joint venture of Jebsen & Jessen South East Asia, Mannesmann Dematic AG, and First Philippine Holdings Corporation. We offer challenging career opportunities for a:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

He / she must have 2 – 4 years experience in marketing industrial products, with an education degree preferably in marketing, with basic competency in market research & intelligence, advertising, promotion and sales support; computer literate, with pleasant communication skills.

Qualified persons must send (pref. Email) their Application, Resume & ID Photo, not later than Dec 21, to:

Human Resource Manager
MHE-Dematic (P) Inc
Main Avenue,
Severina Industrial Estate
KM 16, West Service Road
SLEX, Bicutan, Paranaque

E-mail:
loy_judan@mhe-dematic.com

Tel 822-2536 Fax 821 2517

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEDTRONIX
Medical Supplies & Equipment

We Offer:
- ***Dynamic Team***
- ***Opportunity to Grow***

A fast Growing company is in need of people to fill in the following positions:

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Preferably registered Nurse or any related Medical course
- At least one year experience in selling preferably in Medical Supplies/Disposable
- Preferably female, single 22-30 years old
- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality with written communication skills
- Friendly & able to relate well with customers

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT/OFFICE CLERK

- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel & Power point)
- At least one year working experience
- Female, single, 21-30 years old

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:

MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion,
#77 Panay Avenue, corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronx@philonline.com

Note: Applicants should come in proper business attire on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for interview.

The future is e-commerce

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) is a leading enabler of global merchandise trade. We develop and operate independent net marketplaces, and offer software solutions that facilitate cross-border transactions in public and private environments. Our cataloging software and content management infrastructure support these offerings, while our trade magazines remain a key complementary component of our total solution. We are currently looking for:

Marketing Manager

You will conceptualize and execute B2B marketing and communication programs for an international audience. The position requires at least 5 years experience in copywriting, direct marketing, sales and promotions. The ability to work effectively with teams of diverse nationalities is required.

The successful candidate must have a university degree and first class English language skills. Those who enjoy working in a multi-cultural setting will have a definite advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a challenging and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidates. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources

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executive decisions

Client's Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Agency of Choice!!!

ASSOCIATE MARKETING COUNSELOR

Young, fresh & dynamic individual who will be performing more than just account servicing but marketing assistance & counsel to our principals.

Qualifications:

Not over 26 yrs. old,
male or female.
Marketing or business-related course from a reputable school.
To handle advertising & promotions activities.
Willing to go on local travel.
Pleasing personality, go-getter, ambitious, trustworthy, unselfish and a team player.
Willing to grow with the company.

Successful applicant can look forward to an above industry compensation and benefit package.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their resumes with 2x2 size color photo and supporting documents (transcript &/or employment records) to:

HR and ADMIN. HEAD
Executive Decisions

3rd Floor Doña Segunda Building, 113 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
Trunk Lines: 413-6436/37 • 448-5396/98

**Those with attitude problems need not apply.*

WANTED IMMEDIATELY AT PS BANK OFFICE

PS Bank Tower
Suite 2104, 21st floor
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED:

- College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once

THEN YOU DESERVE:

- A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE-AVERAGE INCOME.
- Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

You may send your comprehensive resumé with 2 (2x2) ID pictures to the above address on or before **December 28, 2001.**

PEOPLESUPPORT

PeopleSupport is a leading contact center that provides customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP, and phone. Our global network is composed of corporate headquarters in L.A., US operations center in St. Louis, Missouri, sales offices strategically placed in major cities in the US, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

WWW.PEOPLE**SUPPORT**.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

eReps™

are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide online customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP and phone on a 24x7 basis. **Qualifications:** *Four year college degree. Customer service orientation.* ***Excellent English*** *communication skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts. Good typing skills.*

◎ travel eReps™

2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations.

◎ technical eReps™

College graduates from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

◎ GeNeRaL eReps™

College graduates with strong customer service orientation.

We offer a dynamic work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

EMAIL YOUR RESUMES TO:

applicants@peoplesupport.com

12th - 14th Fl. Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati

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GM

General Motors Automobiles Philippines

! *The GM Difference!*

WE ARE SHIFTING TO HIGH GEAR FOR THE COMING YEAR

Be part of the world's biggest automobile company

We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill below-mentioned position immediately!

TREASURY ANALYST Code: TA

Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇨ Must be a graduate of business course major in Accounting (preferably CPA)
- ⇨ Must have work experience in the same or similar position gained from a reputable company
- ⇨ Experience in bank trade transactions will be an advantage
- ⇨ Proven track record in credit & collection management
- ⇨ Exposure in import operations and development of business case
- ⇨ Excellent analytical skills
- ⇨ Strong computer skills

Competencies:

- ⇨ Hardworking, flexible and resourceful
- ⇨ Independent and efficient
- ⇨ Keen on details
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- ⇨ Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

Please send your application documents with contact numbers and recent 2x2 photo.

The Finance Director
General Motors Automobile Philippines, Inc.
33rd Flr., Citibank Tower Condominium
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village
1226 Makati City, Philippines

Previous applicants need not apply.

Rx MEDICard

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• NURSES

Male or Female. At least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse; With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting; With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills; Willing to be assigned in Libis, Cainta, Makati, Pasig.

• X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST

Female, between 21 to 27 years of age; Graduate of B.S. Radiologic Therapy; With at least 6 months relevant experience (ultrasound, x-ray); Must be computer literate.

• LIAISON OFFICER

Graduate of any Medical Course; Between 21 to 25 years old; With above-average written and oral communication skills; Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

KATIPUNAN METALS CORP.

Victoria Wave Ltd., Special Economic Zone
Bo. Malaria, Tala, Caloocan City 1427
Phone No. 983-50-40 / Fax No. 983-50-39

Wanted : SECRETARY

with the following qualifications:

- ⇨ Female, 18-25 years old, Single, College Graduate
- ⇨ Computer Literate:
  - MS Word, MS Powerpoint
  - MS Excel, MS Access
- ⇨ With a working knowledge in Accounting
- ⇨ Adept at business correspondence
- ⇨ Can work with minimum supervision
- ⇨ With Pleasing Personality
- ⇨ & of Good moral character

Interested parties may send or hand-carry their resumé, 2x2 Picture, Letter of Application, Transcript of Records, NBI/Police Clearance & Medical Certificate at the above - stated address.
(Only applicants with complete requirements and who possesses the above qualification shell be entertained.
Previous applicants need not apply.)

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Preparing for the Interview

Prepare all needed documents.

Usually the employer requires the applicant to bring transcript of records and information on SSS, TIN, etc. for the application form. Jaymie needs to have these details on hand. Having a copy for her resumé will help her recall the details (like graduation dates) on her educational background that are standard in all application forms.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB MARKET

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www.inq7.net

Pfizer

Pfizer, Inc. is a research based company that creates breakthrough health care products. It leads in the cardiovascular, central nervous system, anti-infectives, analgesics and urological markets by growing existing products and successfully launching new ones. Today, it is the 4th most valued company and the largest pharmaceutical company in the world. Pfizer is among the top pharmaceutical companies, and has posted the fastest growth rate in the industry.

We are one of the country's best employers. We offer a compensation package competitive with those of the leading players in the industry. Our leadership and people practices create an excellent environment for personal and professional growth. Pfizer, Inc. is simply a great place to work in!

Hewitt

BEST EMPLOYERS IN ASIA

Pfizer, Inc.- voted one of the Best Employers in the Philippines

The Job

SUPPLY CHAIN OFFICER

The job holder will handle supply planning of finished goods for a group of consumer health care products. This includes coordination of production with local toll manufacturers as well as overseas Pfizer affiliates. The Supply Chain Officer will also be responsible for the replenishment of inventory at the distributor level, processing of distributor sales orders and validation of product returns; including administration of the flow of inventory and information across the supply chain for the assigned products.

The Qualifications

- Has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, Pharmacy or related field
- Minimum 2 years' work experience in production planning or any related field in a manufacturing company
- Possesses a keen eye for detail: highly-organized and results oriented; proficient in computer applications

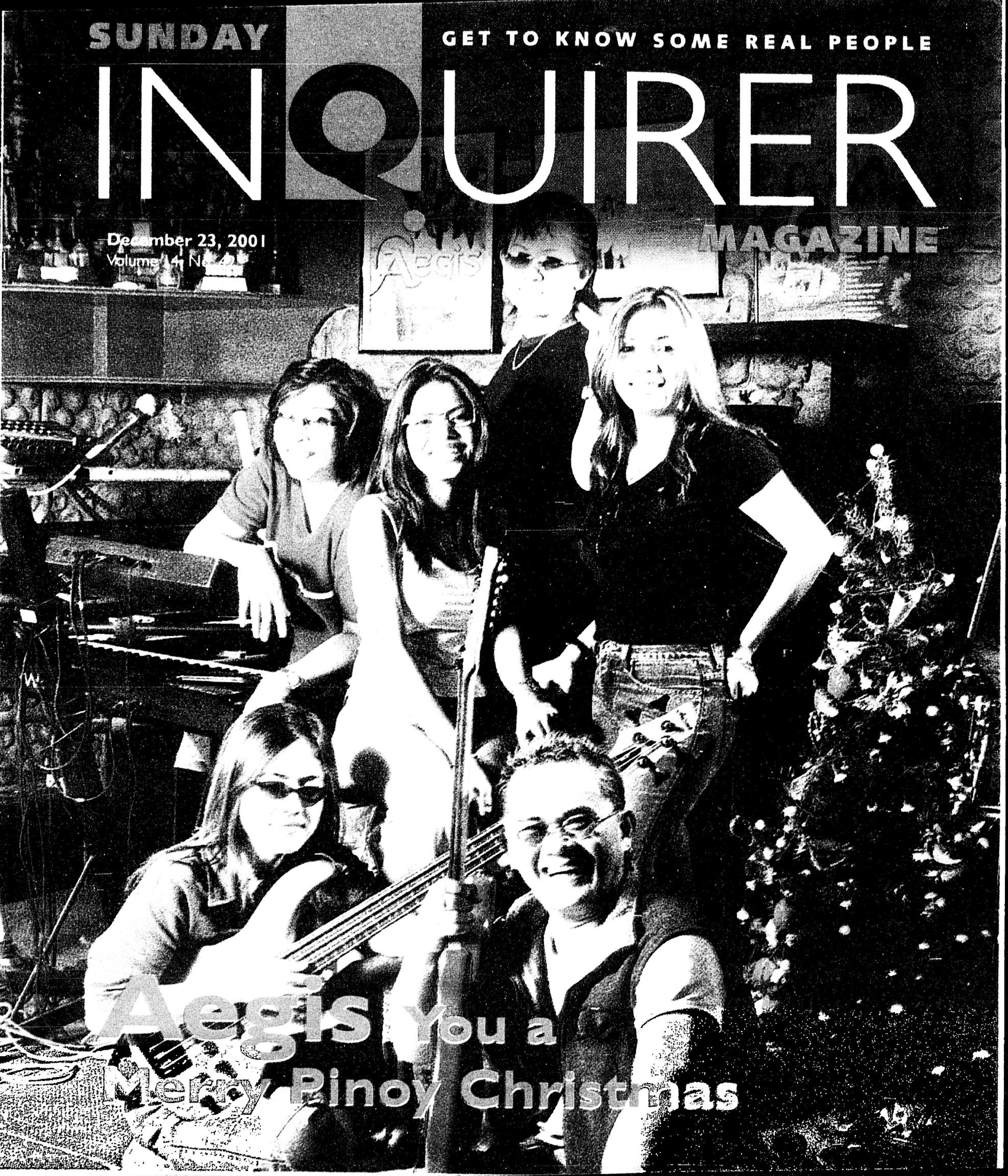
Interested parties may send resumes to:

**Human Resources Division
23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center
6875 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Or you could submit by email via our website,
http://www.pfizer.com.ph

SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
December 23, 2001
Volume 14, No. 42

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Aegis You a Merry Pinoy Christmas

Features

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With innovation and sharp business instincts, Dennis Cruz and Karton Manila have redefined the way Pinoys wrap their gifts

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One of Manila's hottest bands is as Pinoy pop as jeepneys, jukeboxes and, well, no-holds-barred melodrama

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This Week 12

The Widow

I have tilled the rice
I have plugged the dikes
It is night already

I have filled the bins
I have cleaned the well
It is night already

I have washed your clothes
I have cooked the food
It is night already

I have seen you fight
I have seen you dance
It is night already

I have seen you love
I have seen you cry
Dig my grave already.

I have said my prayers
I have sang my songs
Dig my grave already

I have seen the sun
I have seen the moon
Send me them already

Now I miss my father
Now I miss my mother
Dig my grave already.

Tita L. Ayala

Saluma sa Disyembre

Taglamig ang iliw ng Pasko.

Sa mga sandaling tulad nito:
Mala-kundiman ang karoling
Ng munting ulan sa mga dahon
Tapos, hahapulas ang gahamog
Na daliri ng hangin. Maririnig
Ko na naman ang hudyaka
Ng mga palakang nanunukso
Sa aking pag-iisa. Paano,
Umalis kang di ko man lang
Alam kung ika'y babalik pa.

Di ko man sasadyain, ang awit
Nila'y kakatok sa dibdib,
Tatagos sa puso, tila kulam,
Lagnatin ang dughan sa kamingaw.
Kahit gabi-gabi akong nanaginip
Na palitan ang tukso nilang awit
Sa init sa atin sanang halakhak,
Huwag mong sabihing pipitasin
Ko na naman ang iba pang gabi
Na ikaw handurawong darating?

Bukas, huhulihin ko't kakainin
Ang lahat ng mga palaka.

Noel P. Tuazon

Cover Story page 6

The Cover Image The familiar tunes of Aegis exemplify the quirkiness of Christmas for Pinoys *Photograph by Mike Alquinto*

In the story "Snuffed Out" (SIM, Dec. 9, 2001), the name and the alias of the subject were inadvertently interchanged. Miriam College student Arminda "Bambi" Santos used the *nom de guerre* Vivian Torralba when she died while doing research in Mindanao for Bayan. SIM regrets the error.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
Vol. 14 No. 42
December 23, 2001
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Editor in Chief	Alya B. Honasan
Managing Editor	Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor	Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer	Eric S. Caruncho
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Editorial Assistant	Sharon M. Felipe
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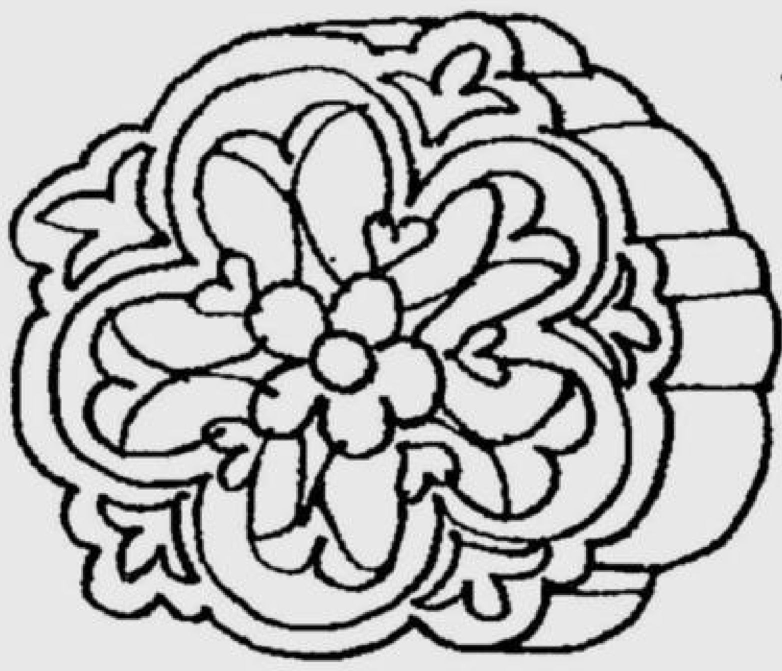
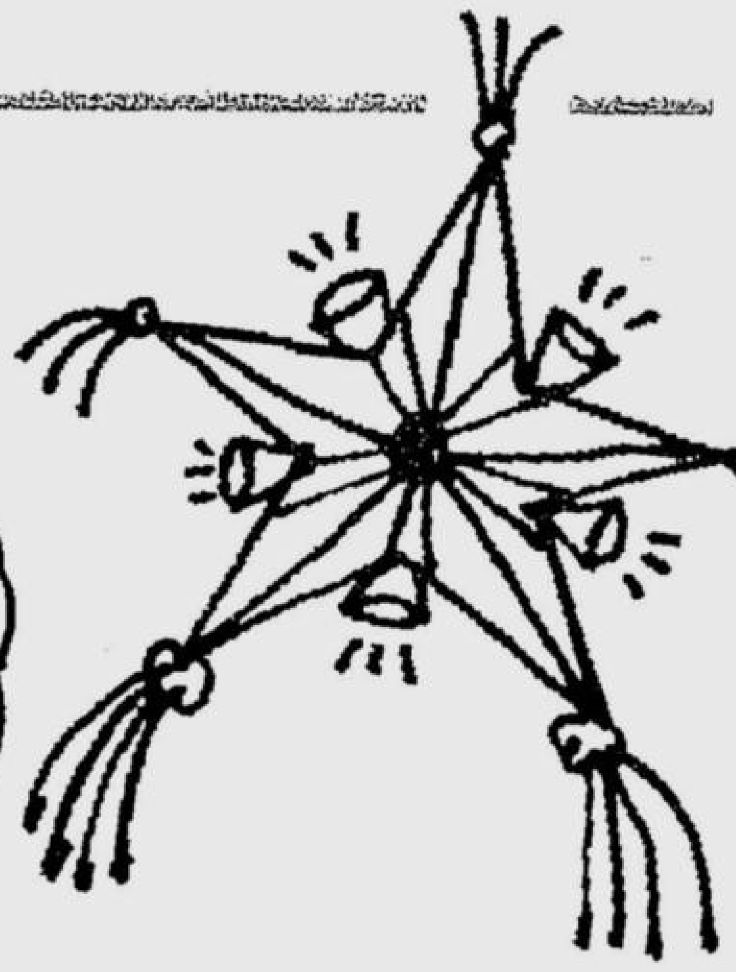
THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808. locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines, E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph *illustrations by Jess Abrera*

See it, hear it, smell it in the air? Here are 25 things that today's Paskong Pinoy *just cannot do without – lest you forget*

A Contemporary Pinoy Christmas

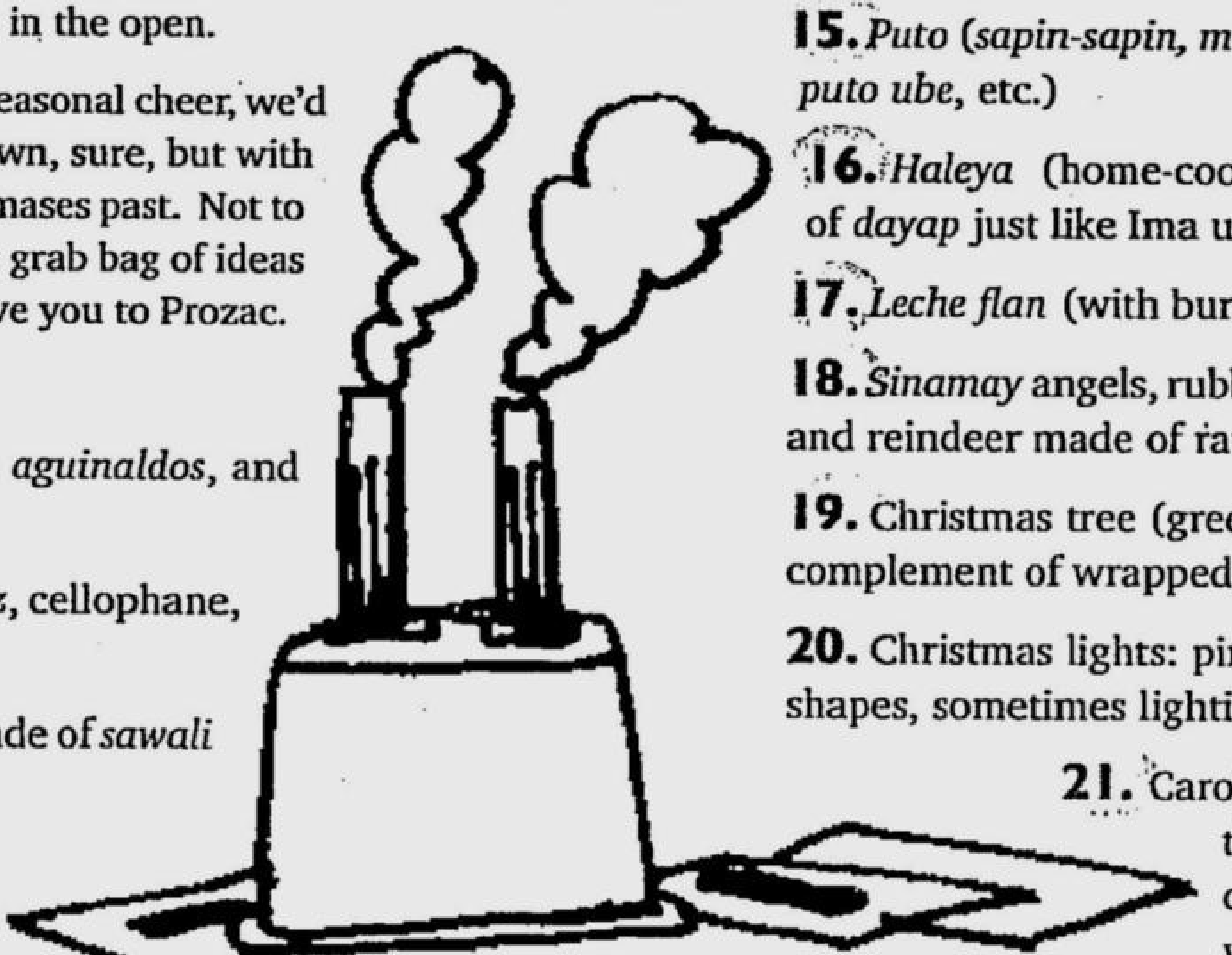




STILL DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS? UNLESS PINATUBO BELCHES ANOTHER LOAD, YOU'RE IN FOR A REALITY CHECK. THIS IS THE TROPICS, WE'RE SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EQUATORIAL BELT AND WE PUT ON SUNSCREEN AND SKIN WHITENERS TO FEEL DECENTLY DRESSED UP.

Forget about Santa Claus sliding down the chimney. Except in Baguio, we only have smokestacks blighting the landscape, and can you imagine the jolly fat guy shimmying down those ozone busters? He'd be toast. Rudolf and Prancer and Blitzen and Dancer? Ummm, we don't mean to be a grinch, but they'd make for fine *pulutan* the moment they venture out in the open.

But far from being a Scrooge or a Muggle in these days of seasonal cheer, we'd like to suggest a more homegrown celebration—scaled down, sure, but with all the trimmings, glitter and cholesterol overload of Christmases past. Not to mention uniquely Pinoy as well. So find the familiar in this grab bag of ideas guaranteed not to bust your budget, burst an artery or drive you to Prozac.



1. *Tiangges* all over the place (the better to load up on *aguinaldos*, and don't forget to haggle!)

2. The Pampanga *parol* (or its substitutes, made of *capiz*, cellophane, *papel de Hapon*, old newspapers or Dixie cups)

3. *Escayola belen*, the bigger the better, with a manger made of *sawali* and nipa

4. Bah, ham (bug)! Make it a Majestic, available by the kilo in wet markets

5. *Puto bumbong at tsaa* (preferably taken after *Misa de Gallo*)

6. Piping hot *bibingka* with salted eggs and native cheese

7. *Tsokolate eh* paired with *suman*

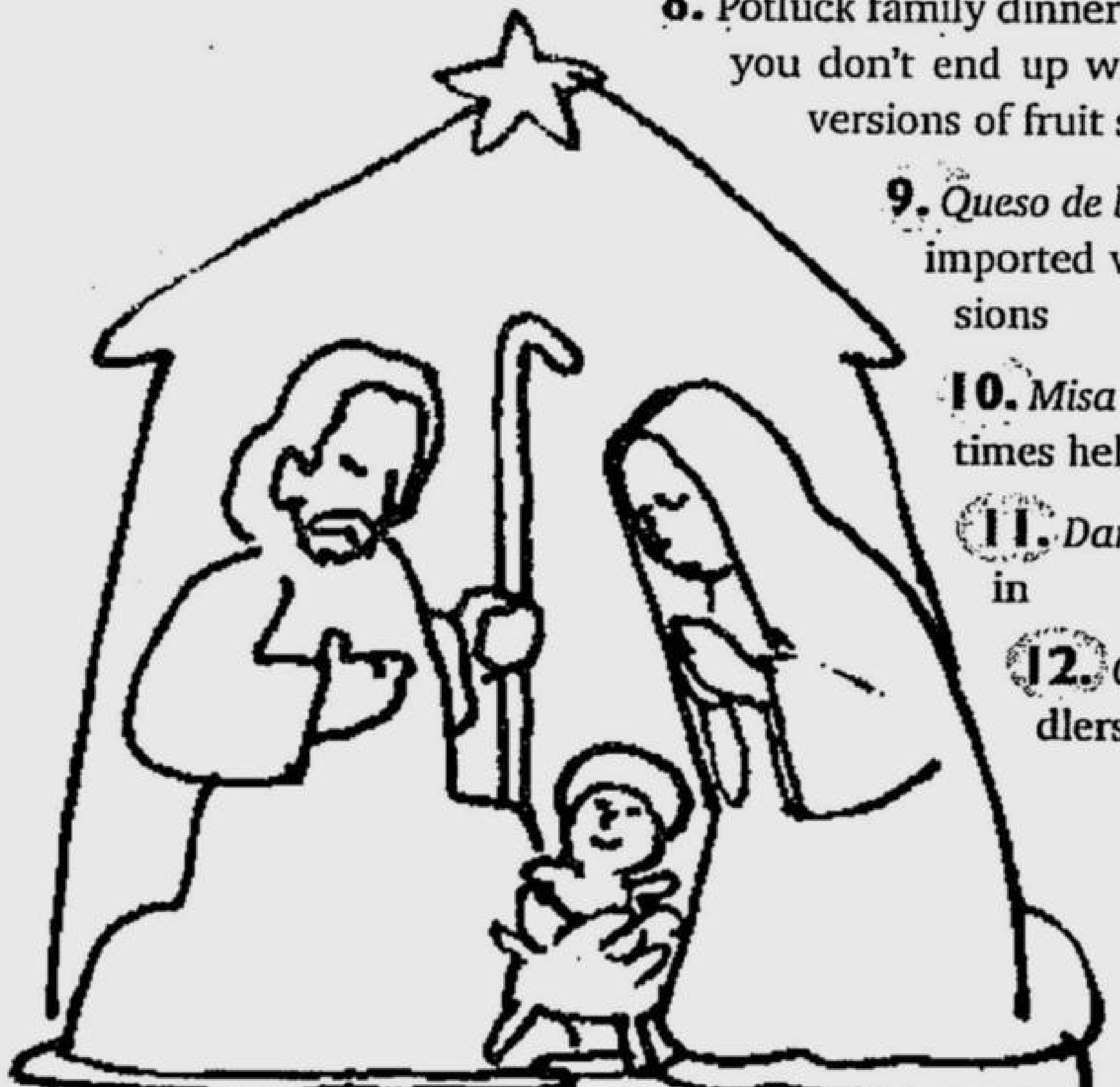
8. Potluck family dinner (check what the rest are bringing so you don't end up with endless *bilaos* of *pancit* or three versions of fruit salad)

9. *Queso de bola* – if you shirk from the expensive imported versions, they've got edible local versions

10. *Misa de Gallo*, never mind if they're sometimes held the midnight before

11. *Damit pamasko*: must be new and in *na in*

12. *Castañas*, fresh from the street peddlers' steaming cauldron of sand



13. Fruitcake (or its poorer but more appreciated cousins: brownies, food for the gods, carrot cake, lemon squares, chocolate chip cookies, etc.)

14. *Pancit* (of all kinds: *bihon*, Malabon, *luglog, habhab, canton, molo*, etc.)

15. *Puto* (*sapin-sapin, maja blanca*, with salted eggs and cheese, *puto ube*, etc.)

16. *Haleya* (home-cooked *ube*, thick and chewy, with a dash of *dayap* just like Ima used to make)

17. *Leche flan* (with burnt caramel on the bottom)

18. *Sinamay* angels, rubbing wings with the papier mache Santa and reindeer made of rattan twigs

19. Christmas tree (green, plastic or white-painted twigs, with complement of wrapped gifts, *walang laman ang iba*)

20. Christmas lights: pin lights and rice lights in all colors and shapes, sometimes lighting up the whole house

21. Carols (live, as in the roving brass band or the parish choir, or canned, as in synchronized with the blinking lights on your Christmas tree)

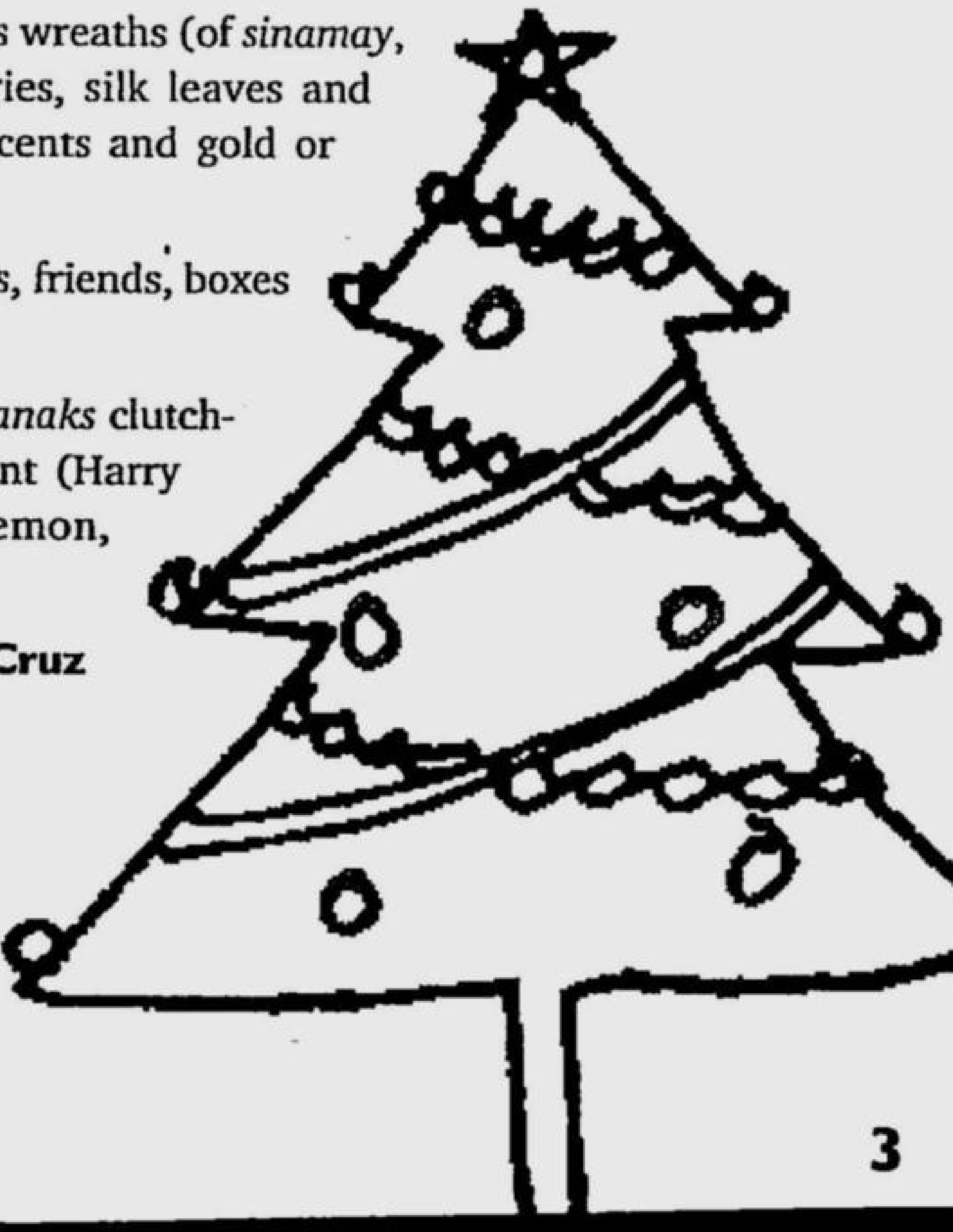
22. Street kids jangling *tansan* tambourines and chanting, *"Piso lang po"* when your car gets stuck in traffic

23. Improvised Christmas wreaths (of *sinamay*, papier mache, resin berries, silk leaves and flowers, *walis tingting* accents and gold or silver paints)

24. *Balikbayans* (relatives, friends, boxes *na amoy Amerika pa*!)

25. Tricycle loads of *inaanaks* clutching the toy of the moment (Harry Potter accessories, Pokemon, Power Puff girls, etc.)

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz



The Reel Life

by Alya B. Honasan

For "Bagong Buwan," her first venture as a film producer, Margie Moran Floirendo finds the perfect story to tell, on a subject closest to home: the plight of ordinary people in war-torn Mindanao

Mindanao in Her Heart

Ernie Sarmiento

IF THERE WAS ANY ONE INCIDENT THAT TRULY AWAKENED MARGARITA "MARGIE" MORAN FLOIRENDO TO THE HARSH REALITY OF WAR IN MINDANAO, IT HAPPENED ONE DAY ON THE ROAD. IN THE COURSE OF PRODUCING THE BOOK "MINDANAO: A PORTRAIT" FOR BOOKMARK, SHE WAS TRAVELING FROM MARAWI TO COTABATO CITY ON THE DON NARCISO RAMOS HIGHWAY.

"In Matanog, an MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) area, our vehicle stopped behind a jeep," she recalls, "and suddenly a boy of about 8 with a toy gun stood right in front of us and pretended to fire at us." She shakes her head in disbelief at the mock ambush. "When even a kid would have killing and hostility on his mind, and he's growing up with it, you know that you have to try and do something about his culture of war."

She's congressional spouse to Davao del Norte Representative Antonio Floirendo Jr., trustee of the Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc., member of the Tabang Mindanao task force and wearer of half a dozen other civic hats on the island she has called home for 18 years. Yet, even as she'd rather bleep over the glamor, it is in her more high-profile, "showbiz" projects that this TV host, occasional ingenue (remember that fluffy 1974 cult classic "Oh Margie Oh"?) and 1973 Miss Universe makes the biggest impact. Her TV show "Margie on Mindanao" opened many eyes to the beauty of a region often associated with conflict.

Now, Floirendo has a new role: that of movie producer, with one hell of a maiden offering to boot. Together with friends, Floirendo has established Bahaghari Productions Studios Entertainment Inc., and their first outing is Marilou Diaz-Abaya's *"Bagong Buwan,"* a big-budget movie on the Muslim civilians caught in the crossfire of war. With the stellar cast (Cesar Montano and others from Abaya's "Muro-Ami" ensemble) and the red-hot subject, many are predicting another victory for Star Cinema's official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, and advising Floirendo to ready her thank you's for awards night.

"Showbusiness is a very good vehicle," Floirendo says. "It's perfect for telling stories. Peace making is a process, and so is storytelling, touching the heart without a political agenda. Through stories, people begin to understand. Well, that's how I began to understand."

Even before the book and her TV show, Floirendo had already produced a documentary on Mindanao called "Healing the Past, Building the Future." After war broke out in Central Mindanao between the government and the MILF, she was toying with the idea of another documentary on how civilians are affected by war. "And then I met up with Marilou Diaz-Abaya." Two years ago, the award-winning director was also looking for material on the children of Mindanao. "Our agendas matched," Floirendo says. "So I brought her to Mindanao, to get her to integrate and listen to the stories – and she really got into it, reading the Koran and researching about Islamic culture. She's way ahead of me!"

Amy Austria and Cesar Montano hold together their Muslim family in "Bagong Buwan"

Midway through research, Abaya and Floirendo took the idea to ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez, who immediately gave the project a nod. "So now my docu is a full-blown feature film, because it is so rich in material!"

Although it was traveling with Bookmark's Lory Tan, Fr. Rene Javellana, and lensmen Neal Oshima and Sonny Yabao for "Mindanao" the book that truly opened Floirendo's eyes to "the beautiful and ugly parts" of the region, her ties actually go back further. While she was born and raised in Manila, Floirendo grew up close to a half-American, half Span-

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Entrepreneurs

by Ruel S. De Vera

With innovation and sharp business instincts Dennis Cruz and Karton Manila have redefined the way Pinoys wrap their gifts

Wrap Star

IF THE KARTON MANILA STORY WERE A GIFT, IT WOULD BE ONE THAT WOULD BE WRAPPED IN BRIGHT COLORS BUT ALSO BE COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED. SINCE ITS OPENING AT THE AYALA CENTER IN 1994, KARTON HAS CHANGED OUR WAY OF WRAPPING PRESENTS BY SUBSTITUTING HANDMADE PAPER AND *SINAMAY* FOR TIRED PATTERNS AND PLAIN RIBBON. YET KARTON, INC. PRESIDENT DENNIS CRUZ SAYS IT WAS ALL UNEXPECTED.

"It was all a gamble," the 35-year-old Dennis explains, "but we had an inkling it might work." In 1987, Dennis was helping out his sister Tes Pasola and his late brother-in-law Ronnie Pasola in putting up exhibits for the products they exported. At that time, they were making wheat sculptures, also known as Salzteig. "We were using handmade paper for packaging material, and to spice up the wrapper, we would decorate it with vegetable dye and wax," Dennis says. "But we noticed that the clients seemed to be interested in the packaging material itself."

Discontinuing his engineering studies at the University of Santo Tomas, Dennis soon joined his sister's company, called Mindmasters, taking care of the stationery line. The company was already branching out into handmade paper because their suppliers could not keep up with their demand.

Eventually, he struck out on his own in 1988 by forming his own paper company, Papelepaps Manufacturing, which specialized in handmade paper. Afterwards, Dennis and his sister decided to make the transition into retailing to augment their export business. In 1994, Karton Manila opened in Ayala Center, featuring products from both Mindmasters and Papelepaps. Dennis was Karton's president, and his wife Melba helped mind the store.

"We noticed that nobody was doing specialty wrapping," he remembers. By experimenting and culling from his own experience wrapping gifts, Dennis and his partners (Tes and other sister Dana Cruz) devised ingenious and eye-catching techniques using handmade paper. "We had no idea it would work."

Work it did, as Karton Manila turned profitable soon after its May opening. "It was really a surprise, and we were lucky that we manufactured our own material, because if we didn't, we would run out of stock." The Christmas season brought a flood of business, and to meet that need, Dennis had a special wrapping counter constructed for the store. To this day, Karton Manila racks up most of its sales during the November to December period. "That period accounts for 35 to 40 percent of our yearly sales," Dennis beams.

Johnny Villena

Out of the box: For Dennis, success has been a pleasant surprise

Today, the store features a whole line of picture frames, boxes and all sorts of paper, stationery and greeting cards, and has recently undergone its first expansion. Dennis adds that they are now looking at expanding somewhere in the southern Metro Manila.

Business is once again very brisk as Christmas features not only the flood of walk-in customers, but also corporations that have begun asking Karton Manila to wrap their gifts in bulk. During this season, Dennis estimates they wrap some "300-400 gifts a day." That would fill a lot of stockings.

Dennis is kept busy making sure that their designs are continually updated. While many other stores now sell handmade paper and specialty wrapping counters pop up all over during the Christmas season, Karton maintains a loyal customer base and is also the only store wrapping all year round. Papelepaps now supplies some 80 percent of Karton's inventory yet Dennis says that Karton only accounts for 20 percent of Papelepap's business. The rest goes to the very competitive and demanding export market. "They want new paper designs every two months," he says. Papelepaps now exports to the United States, New Zealand and Australia.

"It amazes me," Dennis says of how much Pinoys love good packaging. "Sometimes, customers would bring a relatively inexpensive item like a T-shirt to the store and then have it wrapped so elaborately the wrapping winds up more expensive than the gift!" He also hears from recipients of Karton-wrapped gifts that they were reluctant to open the gift because it was wrapped in such a beautiful way.

Why does the Pinoy love to have gifts wrapped this way? "It's the penchant of the Pinoy to be different," Dennis explains. "It's like dressing up their cars. They want to be unique." When asked what would constitute a well-wrapped gift, Dennis says that people should eschew plastic and instead zero in on more natural materials. "Make sure the gift has color and match it to the personality, like having a lot of colors if the gift is for a playful person." He explains that the Karton staff will usually ask about the intended recipient before wrapping a gift so they can make suggestions.

As for gift-wrapping no-nos, Dennis is succinct: "No scotch tape. It's too unnatural." For Karton, Dennis mandates the use of glue guns so the adhesive is invisible.

All this has allowed Karton Manila, year after year, a chance to push the Pinoy taste in gift-wrapping forward. "We like to think we've helped contribute to the developing gift-giving tradition of Pinoys. We just try to be more dynamic." He adds that people should always try to wrap gifts themselves. "It helps develop one's creativity."

On his own, Dennis says his three children—Kim, Paula and Miguel—have picked up his love for wrapping gifts. In the Cruz household, wrapping gifts is a time-honored tradition. "We all choose a corner of the house and then wrap the gifts at the same time," he laughs.

That sound of paper rustling and glue guns humming has helped Karton Manila become a true blue business success despite being a project born of instinct and little else. And it seems as though the Filipino love for the next big thing in gift-giving will keep Karton Manila a new tradition for years to come. "We've broken our sales record every year," Dennis Cruz states, "so we are here to stay."

Cover Story
by [illegible] Caruncho

One of Manila's hottest bands is as Pinoy pop as jeepneys, jukeboxes and, well, no-holds-barred melodrama.

Rock of Aegis

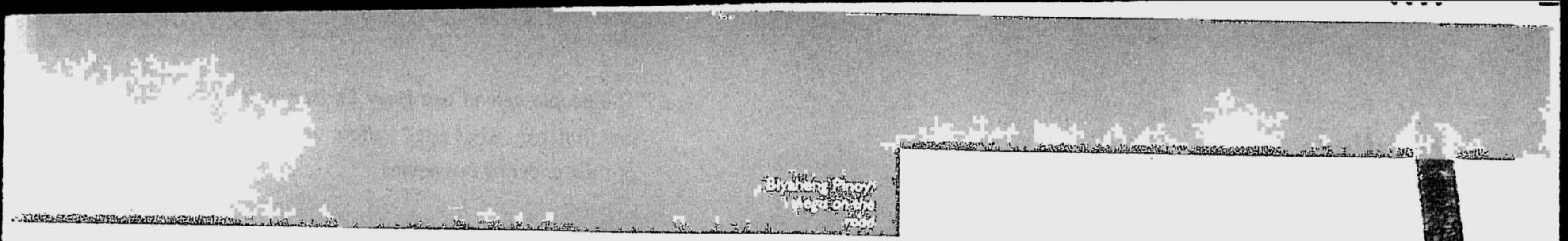
PINOYS ARE RULED BY THE HEART, NOT THE HEAD. THIS IS WHY THE COUNTRY IS SUCH A MESS, AND WHY AEGIS IS THE BIGGEST BAND IN THE LAND. THE PINOY HAS HAD A HEAD BYPASS OPERATION: HIS EAR HAS A DIRECT LINK TO THE HEART BY WAY OF THE GUT. THIS IS WHY HE RESPONDS BEST TO MUSIC THAT DRAWS FROM THE DEEP, BOTTOMLESS WELL OF HURT, MELANCHOLY AND WOUNDED EMOTIONS THAT LIES AT THE CORE OF THE PINOY ROMANTIC EXPERIENCE. IN HIS OWN GENTEEL WAY, RUBEN TAGALOG SIPPED FROM ITS WATERS. EDDIE PEREGRINA CERTAINLY DRANK DEEP. AND IT FAIRLY GUSHES OUT OF THE SONGS OF AEGIS, INUNDATING LISTENERS WITH WAVES OF RAW FEELING. THIS IS OUR VERSION OF THE BLUES.

In mundane terms, Aegis' music is in the tradition of that much-maligned genre, the rock ballad (also known in these parts as "slow rock"). Every beerhouse jukebox and jeepney cassette player in the country, from Pagudpud to Patikul, is stocked with Nazareth's "Love Hurts," the Scorpions' "Always Somewhere," Bon Jovi's "Bed of Roses" and Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart." Since the quadruple platinum-selling success of Aegis' 1998 debut *"Halik"* (multiply that by 10 to factor in piracy), these collections have grown to include *"Luha," "Halik," "Mahal na Mahal Kita," "Bakit?"* and other instant beerhouse classics.

As their record sales and sold-out concerts show, Aegis certainly has mass appeal, in spades. But they have also attracted some unlikely fans from the A-B crowd.

"*Bilib ako sa* Aegis," says Joey Ayala. "They have an emotional directness that I'm still not comfortable approaching in my own music." Ayala's own musical journey is a search for the heart of Pinoy-ness, but his intellectual and aesthetic bent has led him to take the circuitous route. With Aegis, it is the starting point.

Where's the bonus? (From left) Rey Abenoja, Stella Maris Galindo, Mercy and Juliet Sunot, Vilma Goloviogo, Rowena Pinpin.



Writer Gilda Cordero-Fernando is another enthusiastic supporter, featuring the group in her latest book "Pinoy Pop Culture." During its launch, Aegis wowed the likes of Jaime Zobel de Ayala and other members of Manila's upper crust who, presumably, have not been able to catch them live at Joekher's. "With a name like Aegis, I thought they were from Ateneo," she laughs. Hardly. Apart from the well-known fact that Ateneans are, ironically, unable to sing the blues (something about a Jesuit education spoiling their "emotional directness"), most of Aegis' members are from the Pinoy heartland.

And then there's Thomas, a German married to a Filipina who is convinced that the music of Aegis has mysterious healing powers. The victim of a car wreck, Thomas claims he lay in a coma for several weeks. The only thing he remembers about his sojourn in limbo is hearing these incredibly intense voices. His wife, as it turns out, was playing Aegis constantly during her vigil. Thomas believes the music gave him a way back to the land of the living. Now Thomas makes it a point to catch the band live whenever he's in the country.

Aegis is, in fact, a product of that uniquely Pinoy institution, the entertainers' training center.

To feed the demand for Filipino "entertainers" in Japan, scores of such centers sprouted all over the country to train prospective "Japayuki" in dancing, singing and musicianship. Josie Abenoja, a former nurse from Southern Leyte and her husband Solito Galindo, a retired ship captain from Misamis, put up AG Talent Development and Management for the express purpose of training bands hoping to land a well-paying gig in a Japanese nightclub. Although experience was a plus, it was not necessary. Drawing from his background in the Philippine Navy, Galindo had developed a "military style" training method for aspiring musicians.

"*Umiiyak sila noon pag tinuturuan ko* (They would cry when I was training them)," he recalls. "*Pag nasa* band room *na ko, ang* relationship *namin hindi na* teacher at student, *cadete at cadre na*." This barracks discipline involved long hours of practice, heavy penalties for mistakes as well as a rigid schedule for mealtimes, sleep and such chores as cleaning the practice studio and the bathrooms.

"*Gusto kong ma*-realize *nila na ang pinasukan nila, magiging* profession *na nila* (I want them to realize that what they're getting into is going to be their profession)," he adds.

One such group of hopefuls included Juliet and Mercy Sunot, two teenage sisters from Cagayan de Oro who used to join amateur singing contests under assumed names, invariably taking first and second prizes. Strongly influenced by Asin's Lolita Carbon and Bonnie Tyler, the sister's frayed-larynx vocals and keening harmonies are the key to the Aegis sound. To the stew were added Stella Maris Galindo on keyboard, Rey Abenoja on guitar, Rowena Pinpin on bass and Vilma Goloviogo on drums.

Although the keyboard player and guitarist had some experience, most of the band members started from zero. But thanks to the Spartan regimen at the training center, they were soon playing gigs, first as AG's Soundtrippers, and eventually as Aegis.

"*Ang hirap talaga*," recalls Mercy of the early days. "*Nagkakalat kami sa* stage, *pinagtatawanan kami. Kapal lang ng mukha.* (We'd make a fool of ourselves on stage, they would laugh at us. It was brazen.) *Bago kami naging* Aegis, *trabahong kayod kami. Nagsimula kami sa* Calle 5, *sa* Muñoz, *sa* Farmer's Plaza. *Ang* budget *namin* P27, P35, *ganoon. Sampu lang ang alam naming kanta kaya ganoon kaliit ang* budget *namin* (We only knew 10 songs, that's why we only had a small budget)."

The band persevered, however, and after years of rigorous training, they were good enough for Japan. Numerous stints in the land of the Yen honed their skills. Soon, satisfied Japanese customers were howling for them, and rewarding requests with extravagant tips. Big spenders regularly paid them the ultimate accolade for a performing band in Japan: the *lapad* (a 10,000-yen banknote).

The band thought they had it made. They were working regularly and getting paid handsomely (at least by Pinoy musician standards). This was as far as they had dared to dream. But it was only the beginning.

In 1998, their management broached the subject of recording original material. Up to that point, the thought had never occurred to the band. They thought they would be earning their living as a performing band. But Josie's other brother Celso was a frustrated musician and prolific songwriter who had written dozens of songs, one of which was potentially a hit. Titled *"Luha,"* it was a typical Pinoy ballad about heartbreak. With no expectations, Aegis recorded a demo.

It was a completely over-the-top, emote-to-death reading, dripping with naked feeling. The people from Alpha Records, who know a hit when they hear one, lost no time signing Aegis to a three-year contract.

Mike Alquinto

The Sunot sisters were in a taxi when *"Luha"* came over the radio. "Mama! Mama! *Kapatid ko yan*!" one of them said to the driver, who refused to believe them.

"Halik" yielded six more singles, which were soon heard in public jeepneys and from the lips of *labanderas* throughout the land. The second album failed to scale the same heights, but it did yield *"Mahal na Mahal Kita,"* another tearjerker to add to the canon. Christmas of 2000 yielded the quickie *"Paskung-Pasko"* album. Earlier this year, the band released their fourth album *"Awit at Pag-Ibig"* which is cut from the same cloth as the debut (why spoil a good thing?).

"*Ang gusto ng* Pinoy *pang*-emote," says Mercy. "*Yung makabagbag-damdamin* (heart-wrenching) *na* love songs."

Subtlety is definitely not our strong suit. We can't resist high drama, the operatic flourish, excessive embellishment, doing it to death. Somehow, Aegis manages to turn this weakness into a strength. When asked where their sound came from, Juliet replied: "*Galing sa puso* (It comes from the heart)."

Foodies
by Joy Rojas

The people behind two Pinoy Christmas staples – ham and fruitcake, what else? – share the secret ingredients of their enduring businesses

Season's Tastings

THE IRONY ABOUT JU.D LAO, INDEFATIGABLE FRUITCAKE MAKER FOR THE PAST 26 YEARS, IS THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE FRUITCAKE – AT LEAST, NOT THE ONES SHE AND HER FAMILY RECEIVED EVERY CHRISTMAS.

"I hated fruitcake as a child," she admits with a frown. "The fruitcake we got had too many nuts, the dates were too sweet, and the smell of brandy too strong. We hated it!" A trip to Zurich, Switzerland in 1975, however, changed all that. Presented with a slice of fruitcake a la mode, Ju.d took one bite of the delectable dessert, swooned over its cakey consistency, and was struck with inspiration. "The first thing that came into my mind was, why can't we Filipinos have something like this? I really wanted to show Filipinos that we can have good fruitcake. One that is edible!"

Edible indeed. Once Ju.d (it's actually Judy, but she shortened it "just to be simple") came up with her rich and moist concoction, she made like an encyclopedia salesman and peddled her treat tirelessly to a crowd that's tough to please: her Chinese family and friends. "The Chinese don't eat fruitcake. They either give it to their maids or recycle it as a gift," says Ju.d, herself a third-generation Filipino-Chinese. "But then people started calling back and telling me that their children liked it. If children like my fruitcake, *ayun na*! (That's it!)"

Twenty-six years later, Ju.d's classic fruitcake (P450) is still a big hit, though its recent variants – a delicious honey-and-molasses fruitcake (P500), a coffee-flavored fruitcake (P550), and fruitcake-tasting cookies called chewy chewkies (P180 a dozen) – are fast becoming favorites among her loyal clientele. Through simple word of mouth, Ju.d's handsomely packaged goodies have reached countless homes including those of Helen Gamboa, Jamie Rivera, Rosemarie Gil, and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos. They've also been flown to as far off as Hong Kong, Singapore, Belgium and Germany. Food critic Doreen Fernandez thought they were imported.

Roger Carpio

Ju.d Lao's fruitcakes make for a tasty Yuletide staple

Ham on display: The Majestic booth at the Asian food festival

Jim Guiao Punzalan

But one of the sincerest forms of flattery came a few years ago when Ju.D received an order for fruitcake from no less than a Buddhist monk in Hawaii. "Oh, my goodness, I love it," she exclaims breathlessly. "I'm attracting good souls!"

Getting her just desserts is more like it. Originally assisted in the kitchen by her brothers and sisters, she is now helped by out-of-school youth and the members of the El Shaddai choir. She also practices zero waste management: her unused egg whites go to the St. Theresa nuns, while her egg shells are turned into compost. Ever the generous one, she never fails to pack something extra for clients who pick up their orders from her residence, a place not exactly accessible to public transportation. And though she can afford to relax or attend to other matters (she teaches vegetarian cooking on a Taiwanese cable channel and does charity work for a foundation headed by the mother superior of Buddhism), Ju.d still participates in the baking process. "If you shake my hand in January, *may kalyo pa ako*! (you can still feel the calluses)," she giggles.

"I think it's true what it says in the Bible," she muses, "that it's better to give than to receive. And if you give, it comes back tenfold." But financial stability, particularly in the uncertain economic times of the past two years, is only part of Ju.d's reward; to her, the most treasured blessing is the kind that money can't buy. "At least I have peace of mind," she says. "Like, whenever I teach vegetarian cooking on TV, I know that I have contributed something to this earth. I know I did not hurt anyone."

For now, Ju.d's contribution to this earth is making Christmas a complete experience for all families – including hers. "There were times when I really got so tired of making fruitcake," she confesses with a sigh. "And when every Tom, Dick and Harry was making fruitcake, I started complaining. *Ayoko na! Wala akong laban*! But my family said that it wouldn't be the same if they woke up one December and didn't smell fruitcake in the house. It wouldn't be like Christmas. I think that's reason enough to continue."

Call Ju.d Lao for her fruitcakes at 633-1188 and 633-0260.

* * *

MAJESTIC Ham has been such a time-honored tradition in many Filipino *noche buenas*, Maxine Vitasa remembers it being served in her home during Christmas. "But I was a finicky eater as a child," she admits, "so while the rest of my family feasted on the ham, I would just pick on it." Needless to say, Maxine surprised everyone when she eventually joined the company as its general manager. "My mother likes to kid me about it," she laughs. "She says, *na*-karma *daw ako*!"

It's a good karma, of course, judging from Majestic Ham's track record for world-class products since 1908. Originally owned by a Spanish couple, it was a German technician and Filipino apprentice named Domingo Salvador who created the secret brine formula used for curing the ham.

As the company's name and owners changed through the years (after Salvador owned and christened the company Majestic Ham in 1956, the business was bought by Fernando Pedrosa and his partners in 1985; today, Majestic Ham is run by Pedrosa's children Tomas and Ma. Luisa), the process of treating the ham remained the same. Cured in oak barrels, the ham is then smoked with a special aromatic wood, and aged for full flavor before it is cooked with select spices.

The result: a tasty, succulent, all-year-round meat product enjoyed by Filipinos and foreigners alike. "In a local TV show, two hosts were talking about Christmas presents," recounts Maxine. "When one host told the other he would give him ham for Christmas, the other host said he would only accept it if it was Majestic Ham." Spanish, Italian and French nationals have also showered the staff with praises for their high-quality meat product. And in 1995, the company received an award from an international food and beverage committee.

Still, if there's anyone who truly appreciates Majestic Ham, it's the people behind the bustling operations. "When we talk heart-to-heart with our staff, we make sure they understand everything about the product," says Maxine. "We don't want Majestic Ham to be recognized as just a commodity that you sell for profit. Everybody wants to profit from a business, but the profit that we want is one where people remember us as the ham their *lola* – and their *lola's lola* – once served. Tradition in a silver platter.

"It's a relationship," continues the company's general manager. "A love story between us and a product that was handed down to us for generations." The once-finicky eater, in fact, appears destined to dine on Majestic Ham for many years to come. "Everybody in the company gets sliced ham for Christmas and their birthday," smiles Maxine. "They love it. And their families are so excited!"

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MEMBER PANA Truth in Advertising

End Page

by John L. Silva

No Exit Signs

There are 10 million reasons to leave but 78 million reasons to stay. One for every man, woman and child in this country. I saw courage, righteous anger and unbridled love for this country a year ago. How can you possibly leave such a people?

I'M NOT LEAVING.

THE SHOW'S JUST BEGUN. I HAD FRONT ROW SEATS IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL DISPOSAL, CARRYING A BANNER, SHOUTING AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS. I WANT TO SEE HOW THIS PLAY UNFOLDS AND I WANT TO BE PART OF IT.

I'm not leaving. I'm going to teach aesthetics to people, tell them it's pretty stupid tearing down heritage buildings, bulldozing parks, and ruining the view.

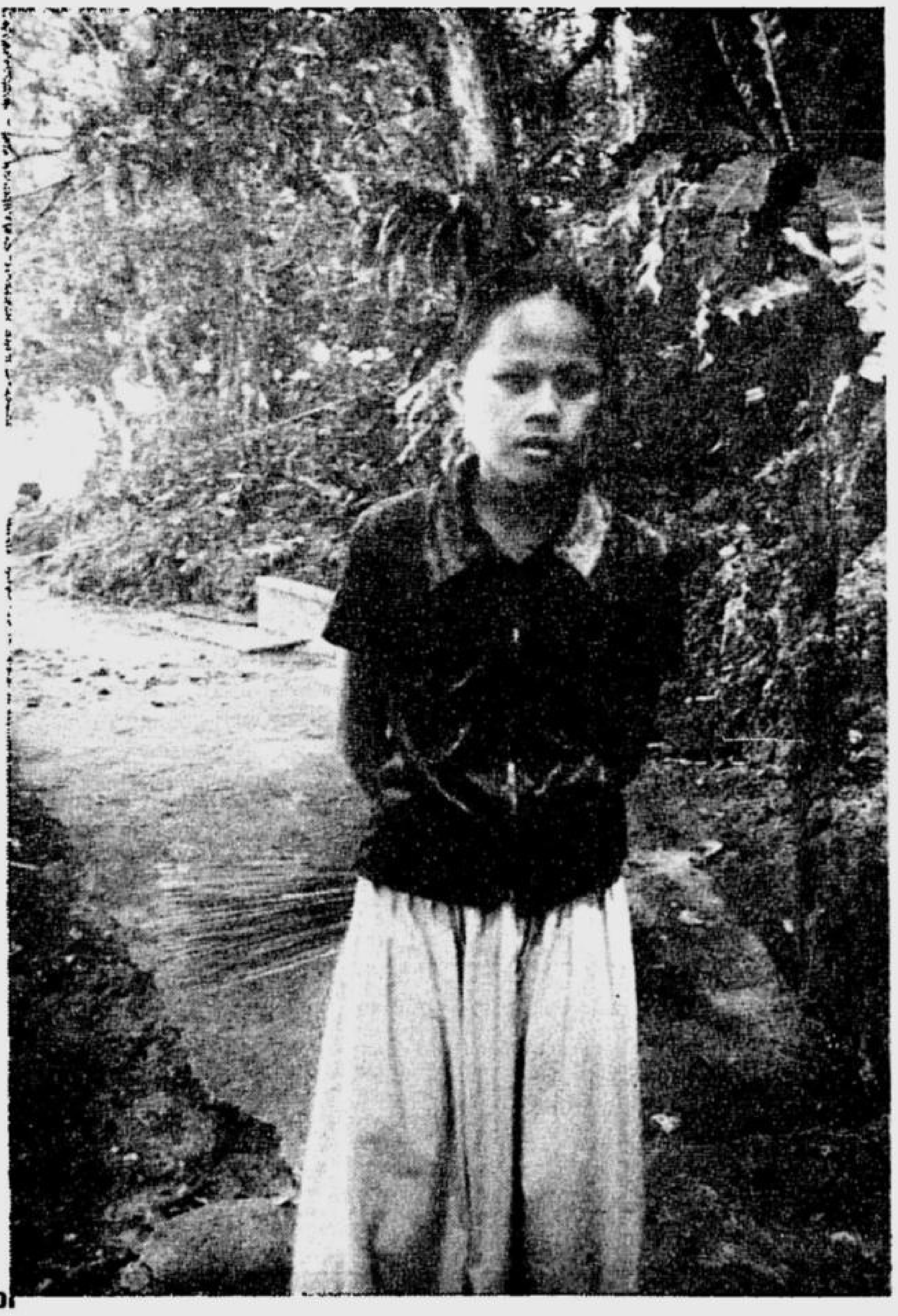
I'm not saying goodbye. I've got this wild idea to get every Filipino child to visit the National Museum. To enjoy it and learn their heritage. I want to compete head on with the malls and get the kids to haul their parents to all the museums.

I'm not going. I may have visited only 10 islands in the country. There are still 7,094 to go. Depending on low tide or high tide.

I can't leave. I'm putting my house boy through college, and hopefully he's going to finish Hotel and Restaurant Management. I want to make sure my investment is successful and I got to be here to crack the whip.

I don't want to go. I've got to check these guys who ran under the banner People Power Coalition. So many of us sweated for that name brand and we want to make sure they don't screw the name up and start buying Expeditions and think it's business as usual.

Leaving isn't an option. I've been around and seen what other countries have done. They cleaned up their rivers dirtier than the Pasig. They've jailed their presidents. They got tough on crime. They shared the wealth. But it's their countries, not mine. And I don't believe that if they can do it, we can't.



Unknown girl, with walis behind her, pauses from sweeping the grounds at the Rizal Shrine, Dapitan, Zamboanga. She does it every Sunday morning for no pay. She says "It's my duty." July 2001.

Digital photograph by John L. Silva

No farewells. Not when drivers can't even follow traffic signs. I'm not through honking and swearing and giving a finger to all the stupid drivers in this country. Someone's got to tell them when they're on the wrong side of the road.

No *paalams*. And leave this country to the crooks and the dumbbells? What a pity: all that stateside education and I won't use it here to outsmart them? Why, these assholes are just praying so hard that we all leave.

No *Adios Patria Adorada*. I'm not abandoning a poor girl in Dapitan who, on Sundays, goes to the Rizal shrine and sweeps the place. No pay. Just because she feels "it's my duty."

What's *there* anyway? *There* with all the gadgets and the electronic stuff and the 999 kinds of soft cheeses and disposable diapers. I'm entering a phase where less is more, quality over quantity. So I don't need the variety.

Leave my *barkada?* I left them once before to stay away so long. So glad they're still around to hang out with.

My *mahal* doesn't want to go. And he's American. He loves it here probably more than some Filipinos. I can hear the whiners saying "Well, your boyfriend's got options..." Yeah, yeah, yeah. Don't knock his affection and just leave, OK?

Security fears? I bought chewing gum from a Filipina at the World Trade Center store in New York just a month before the towers were hit. After that, I figured security is all relative.

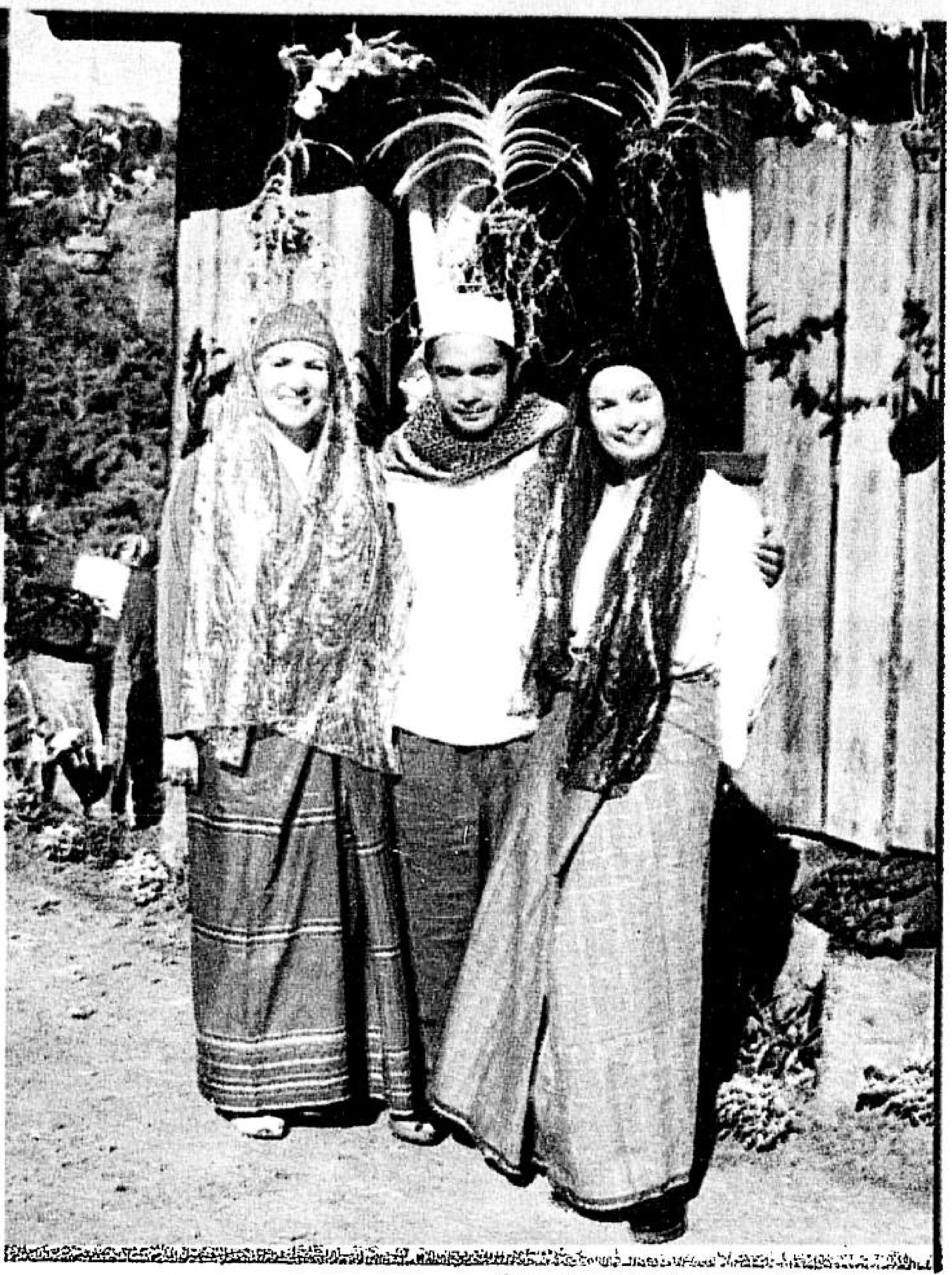
Just won't go. My *balikbayan* sister's in town with her American hubby and my Fil-Am nephew. Days before, been on my knees scrubbing the bathroom floors, raiding the garden for an exotic bouquet, preparing Filipino comfort dishes. I want to impress her. The smile on her face when she's finally here, in the verandah, hearing bamboo leaves swishing in a perfumed night is a smile only this country can invoke.

I'm not leaving. There are 10 million reasons to leave but 78 million reasons to stay. One for every man, woman and child in this country. They're a frustrating, mind-bending lot, these people. But they're my people. I saw courage and righteous anger and bravado just a year ago, and I witnessed the return of decency, hope and unbridled love for this country.

How can you possibly leave such a people?

I'm not leaving.

Hunk Jericho Rosales shines as a young soldier



Cesar Montano flanked by Bahaghari co-owners and Bagong Buwan producers Niña Romualdez and Margie Floirendo on the set

ish grandmother from Zamboanga. "I grew up with a prejudice against the Moros, and the idea that a good Moslem is a dead Moslem," Floirendo states. "Then I met scholars, read books, met so many good people, and it's all been a matter of learning."

Her stature has undeniably helped her learn more. Indeed, Bookmark's Tan would recall how entire marketplaces would fall into hushed silence when the statuesque Floirendo walked by, and Abaya was perpetually shooing her away during her research because "I was attracting too much attention," Floirendo acknowledges with a laugh. "I have made many friends, and the attention becomes an opportunity for me to expose stories of people who have never had a chance." Nowadays, people wonder how she can get to hotspots like Camp Abubakar with no problem. "When Don Narciso Ramos Highway was still a dangerous area, I would call the army and the MILF and tell them, 'I'm passing by, *ha.*' And I never felt the danger. Of course, my husband, children and security are more afraid for me, but I just do my thing!"

Skeptics who feel that the problems of Mindanao have no solution drive Floirendo up the wall. "With that attitude, we really won't get anything done." As for the other non-believers, the ones who dismiss her as a beauty queen with a token pet cause or a political aspirant, "They don't bother me at all. If I had any political ambition – which I really don't – I'd have an entirely different agenda." Having friends who call her up at every murmur of a government appointment with the warning "Don't you dare accept!" is a big help, she laughs.

The prevalent prejudice against Moslems is the result of "ignorance on both sides," Floirendo states. "It's not just Christians against Moslems, but it's the same on the other end. And then there are the indigenous people of Mindanao, five percent of the population. These people are completely neglected and exploited."

Constant work with NGOs has shown Floirendo that peace must indeed begin at the grassroots level. "We have learned that the solution to the problem of Mindanao must be a conscious effort by government and people to really establish relationships. These people are culturally different from us. We have to communicate. All these peace talks will not work – they're just windows to peace – unless trust is built between different groups that live together." And has she earned people's trust? "Well, I'm there," she says. "I'm able to talk to them and make things happen."

The problem is also historical, Floirendo adds, "and the biggest issue is land. Everyone – Muslims, Christians, indigenous tribes – must now realize it's a shared land, and they have to learn to work together."

Two weeks ago, Floirendo was also among the founders of Women's Commission on Mindanao, which includes Peace Panel member Inday Santiago and Representative Patricia Sarenas. They're zooming in on problems of livelihood, education, health and good governance. "The highest illiteracy rate in the country is in ARMM areas, where we also find the poorest municipalities and provinces."

The reality of such a life is what the film *"Bagong Buwan"* seeks to capture. Montano plays Ahmad, a Bangsamoro doctor who is torn between living a peaceful life and fighting when his people's survival is threatened. A critical metaphor is represented by the tenuous friendship between a Moslem boy and a Christian boy, played by Carlo Aquino and Jiro Manio. The title, Floirendo explains, refers to that time in the moon's cycle when it is dark, but people know it will shine again. "Even when they can't see peace," Floirendo says, "the people of Mindanao don't stop hoping that it's there."

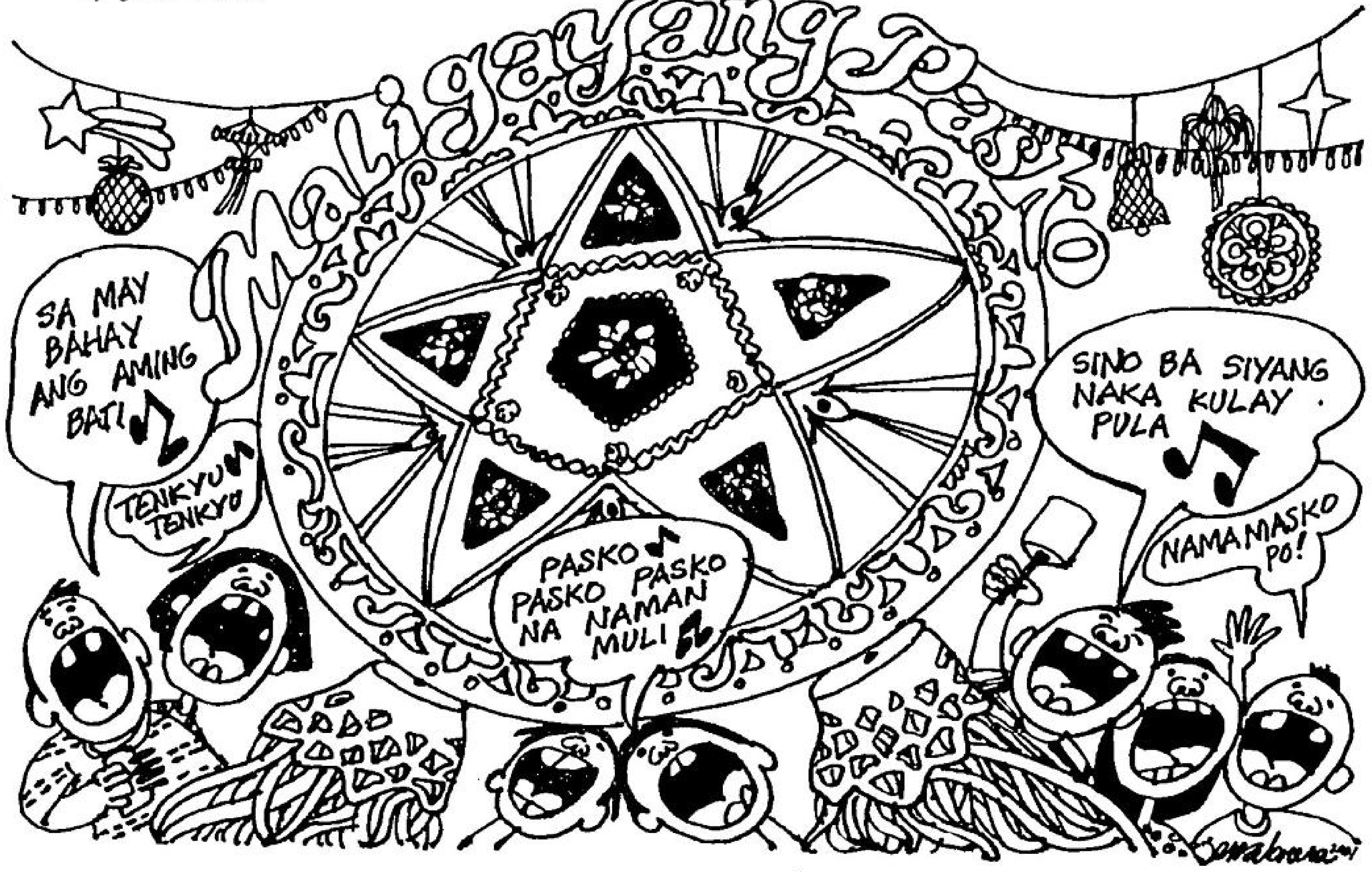
Floirendo is in Mindanao every week, and is a doting mom to two daughters. Fifteen-year-old Monica is in boarding school in London but texts Mom to call her everyday ("You can imagine the phone bills!"), while 11-year-old Gabrielle is studying in Manila. When she does chance upon free time, Floirendo plays golf, travels and enjoys the outdoors; for her show, this *cum laude* Maryknoll business graduate has actually gone rappelling and mountain-climbing.

In February, Bahaghari will be producing a light-hearted stage show as its next offering – "fun stuff," Floirendo assures, "to keep our sanity." As for the film, which opens December 25, her only hope is that "it will touch people's hearts." As an afterthought, Floirendo notes that the big guns behind the movie – the producers, the director – are all women. "Well, women are the peacemakers," she says with the greatest conviction. "We have the understanding, the patience – and the love."

Pinoy NGA!

Meri Krismas

by Jess Abrera


Maligayang Pasko
SA MAY BAHAY ANG AMING BATI
TENKYU TENKYU
PASKO PASKO PASKO NA NAMAN MULI
SINO BA SIYANG NAKA KULAY PULA
NAMAMASKO PO!
Jess Abrera '01

This Week

Art

The Elements: Earth, Wood & Fire, a group exhibit by Claude Tayag, Jon Pettyjohn and Mike Aguas at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati until Dec. 29. For details, call 898 0981.

Francesca Enriquez holds a solo exhibit of oil paintings of plush interiors at the Finale Art Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall A until Jan. 2.

National Artist**Ang Kiukok** and**Ting Ping Lay** is holding a joint exhibit of still lifes and sculptures until Jan. 9 at Finale Art File, LaO Center, Pasay Road, cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Hampers full of Christmas goodies await you at the Makati Shangri-La

Vivian N. Limpin's first solo exhibit of photographs has been extended until the end of the month at the Likha-Diwa sa Gulod, 1 Lt. J. Francisco St., Krus na Ligas, QC. For inquiries, call 925-5522.

Life Before Death, an exhibit of new pastel works on paper by Australian artist Merrick Belyea at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St., Makati City until Jan. 11.

Unang Pitik, Lily Wuzela's first series of flowers ongoing at Le Souffle at The Fort.

Music

Nolyn Cabahug performs his special holiday series with resident pianist Rudy Francisco on keyboard at the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila on Dec. 23-24 at 6-7 p.m.

Sarah Balabagan sings a repertoire of ballads and pop songs every Friday night at Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar, Mindanao and Congressional Avenues, QC. For inquiries, call 453-0080 and 414-4930 to 34.

The**Village WSCS-UMM Choir** will render the religious songs "*Muling Ulinigin*" and "*Ligayang Kakaiba*" written by JST Reyes on Dec. 25 at the Village United Methodist Church, Project 8, QC during the morning worship. Reyes himself will conduct the choir which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Vamos a Belen!, an annual Christmas production showcasing the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group's collection of *pastores* traditions from all over the country, various interpretations of the Christmas story as well as other traditions that Filipinos observed in celebration of the Christmas season, Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For details, call 831-0894 or 831-3415.

Food

Basketfuls of**Christmas goodies** are for sale at the Jeepney Deli Shop of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila until Jan. 6. A wide selection of separate food items perfect as holiday giveaways is also available like pralines, fruit cakes, puddings, gingerbread house, giant *ensaymada* with *ube* and Christmas logs with Black Forest, Chocolate Butter Cream or Walnut and Coffee icing. For orders, call 815-9711 loc. 989.

Indulge your cravings as Manila Galleria Suites' **Raphael Café-Restaurant** prepares a mouthwatering spread of favorite international cuisine in a lavish buffet until Dec. 31. *Bibingka* and *puto bumbong* will also be available everyday this month.

Makati Shangri-La offers a wide selection of patisserie items for sale such as cakes, cookies, chocolates, gingerbread and gourmet hampers that come in three sizes. On Dec. 24 and 25, the hotel's various restaurants will offer a sumptuous holiday buffet consisting of international cuisine, Filipino dishes, Oriental cuisine, Japanese cuisine, and a four-course French-Continental set dinner menu. For inquiries, call 840-0884.

Find the ideal gift this Yuletide Season at Westin Philippine Plaza's **Café Plaza's Deli and Goodies Counter.** Sweet treats of pralines, cookies and pastries come in cheerful Christmas boxes and wrappers. They also have pre-packed gift hampers or you may select the items to suit your preference. Complete your Christmas and New Year feasts with delectable ham, turkey, salmon and prime ribs prepared in the traditional style of home cooked meals. For orders, call 551-5555 ext. 1529.

Komiks, a new boutique restaurant at Julio Nakpil St. corner Maria Orosa St., Malate, Manila, offers light savory meals, chocolate desserts and fondues. It also offers the following activities for the holidays: Wednesday Caricature night—group portrait will be done on the spot by its house artist for free if you dine in every Wednesday night; Kenkoy Kris Kringle—get a chance to pick a holiday gift certificate from its holiday stockings when you dine at the restaurant until Dec. 30.

Atbp

Christmas Bargain Bonanza, an ongoing Christmas *tiangge* at the SSS Livelihood Center along East Avenue (across LTO) where you can find good bargains like Noritake plates and ceramics, denim pants and other ready-to-wear items. There are food stalls that offer affordable snacks and refreshments. For inquiries, call 925-7212 and 925-7365.

For unique gifts this Christmas, visit the**Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Holiday Gifts Bazaar** until today at the Lower Lobby, Boracay and Lubang. Shoppers can get one-of-a-kind products from all over the world plus the best of Philippine crafts at manufacturer's price.

Mr. Klayman *sa* Museo. Have fun with *Kuya* Ray as he teaches kids how to mold animals and many other shapes using colorful clay every Thursday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Karapatan Hall of the Museo Pambata. For inquiries, call 523-1797 to 98.

dOCUMENTO Records, an independent, art-inclined, record label has now officially opened its website. It includes weekly updated news, pictures, articles, MP3s and what-have-yous in the independent community of dOCUMENTO Records. You can visit dOCUMENTO at www.documentagon.com.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's **Christmas Wish Room Package** runs until Jan. 15 which includes an overnight accommodation for two adults and two children in a deluxe room; late check-out of up to 3 p.m.; Christmas treats for kids in every room; complimentary use of Health Club facilities and swimming pool, and more special surprises on Dec. 25. For inquiries, call 867-3333 ext. 3131 to 3134.

Manila Diamond Hotel's **Holiday Getaway Package** comes loaded with extra perks you can't miss. The room package is priced at P3,500 net per night inclusive of buffet breakfast for two, welcome fruit platter, complimentary use of the sauna, steamroom, indoor and outdoor jacuzzi and swimming pool. Added perks include two Ride-All-You-Can tickets to Dream Town at Robinsons Place Ermita, two invitations to the Sky Lounge Countdown Party on New Year's Eve and complimentary Sunset Cocktails at the Restaurant Le Bellevue. For inquiries, call 526-2211 loc. 1104.

Flower Festival at Likha-Diwa sa Gulod (1 Lt. J. Francisco St., Krus na Ligas, QC). Create and personalize your own flower arrangement on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2-6 p.m. Materials will be provided.

X-manila

Gestures of Love, an exhibit of recent works in paper by Victor Secuya at Gallery 5, JS Gaisano Citimall, Ilustre St., Davao City until Jan. 8.

Enjoy the holidays in the cool City of Pines.**Baguio Vista Inn,** a mere 2-minute walk from Burnham Park, offers discounted rates for the holidays. For inquiries, call 7277660/7270331 (Manila) or 074-4470221 (Baguio).

The**Cagayan National High School Batch 76** celebrates its silver jubilee with a class reunion on Dec. 29 at the CNHS, Tuguegarao starting at 8 a.m. For inquiries, call Gregorio Amistad at (02) 372-7818, Dr. Luchie Morales (02) 655-7107 and Dr. Raymund Frogozo (02) 931-3008 in Manila. In Tuguegarao City, contact Deogracias Caronan at (078) 844-2487 and Saturnina Gonzaga (078) 846-4053.

Canossa Academy of Lipa City, Batangas, High School Batch 1996 will hold its first grand reunion on Dec. 30-31. For details, call Kristine Sendy C. del Rosario at 0917-8342508 or email tintinsendy@yahoo.com.

Magical Christmas at Island Cove, Kawit, Cavite. Get a free gift certificate for an overnight stay if you stay for at least three consecutive nights or five accumulated room nights until January 2002. Restaurant guests get to pick-a-gift if they consume at least P2,000 worth of food and drinks at the Fishing Village or at the Island Grill and P1,500 at the Island Café until Jan. 6. Favorite Filipino delights like *bibingka, puto bumbong, ensaymada*, hot *tsokolate* and *salabat* will be prepared in front of the Sports Cove during weekends. For details, call 810-3740 or 810-3718.

***Baro't Saya*: An exhibition on the Evolution of the Filipina Dress,** a permanent exhibit featuring 20 freestanding mannequins and 11 portraits of Filipinas in traditional dress from the 19th century to the immediate post-war period at the Museo De La Salle, DLSU-Dasmariñas, Cavite. For inquiries, call (02) 844-7832 or (046) 416-4531 loc. 3151.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.